

U.S./Canada At-a-Glance

The New CCNA Curricula

The Cisco® Networking Academy® Program is pleased to announce the next-generation of the Cisco CCNA® curricula. These curricula were designed to address a changing marketplace and respond to input from administrators, instructors, and students.

New features of the next-generation curricula include embedded “e-Doing,” which uses the capabilities of a computer to provide guidance and opportunities for exploration and experimentation; enhanced instructional features; and an updated graphical user interface (GUI). This allows for more efficient translation to support Cisco’s commitment to delivering the curricula in multiple languages.

New Curricula Description

Two separate curricula were created so that instructors can more easily and effectively teach CCNA concepts to students at different skill levels:

- CCNA for advanced learning (CCNA-A*) offers students in-depth theory, challenging labs, and detail around protocol operation. It prepares students to be successful in IT professionals in small-to-medium businesses as well as enterprise and service provider environments. CCNA-A was designed to be part of a degree program or continuing education program at postsecondary institutions such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities. CCNA-A is for students with advanced problem solving and analytical skills, such as students who are pursuing degrees in engineering, math, or science
- CCNA for foundational learning (CCNA-B*) provides a hands-on approach to learning networking skills. It uses easy-to-follow labs to help students learn the general theory needed to build networks. CCNA-B allows for early application of learned concepts to encourage students to consider further education in IT and helps students prepare for entry-level IT careers by teaching applied skills midway through the four-course series. CCNA-B was designed as an independent curriculum or can be integrated into the IT Career Cluster program at upper-secondary institutions or career pathways at the postsecondary level. CCNA-B is for students with basic PC usage skills.

** Please note that these are not official names of the new curricula. Formal names will be communicated when the new curricula becomes available.*

Why Did We Create *Two* New Curricula for CCNA?

Both CCNA-A and CCNA-B prepare students for the CCNA certification but in different ways. By using different teaching methodologies for different types of students, we can help ensure their success in learning the content and mastering the skills. Since these curricula are targeted for different educational backgrounds and interests, students will be more successful in achieving their goals. This will improve both student and instructor satisfaction and will help increase enrollment rates.

CCNA-B maps to everyday experiences with networks and is organized around the types of work environments students may encounter, such as a home or small office, and teaches applied skills early on in the curriculum. CCNA-A goes into more technical depth and uses engineering concepts and terminology.

Advantages of the New CCNA Curricula

Both CCNA-A and CCNA-B offer many new features, including the following:

- Improved accuracy and flow of information, with less redundancy
- Optimal balance of theory, practice, and application
- Enhanced and imbedded simulation tool for “e-Doing,” which provides guidance and opportunities for exploration and experimentation
- Design supports more efficient localization
- High- and low-bandwidth delivery options
- Alignment of learning objectives with job skills
- Increased use of rich media for ongoing interactivity throughout the learning process

Who Should Consider Adopting the CCNA-A Curriculum?

Academies with students who prefer a challenging, theoretical, and integrated approach typically used at higher education institutions should consider adopting CCNA-A, which has the following features:

- Designed for students with advanced problem solving and analytical skills, such as students who are pursuing degrees in engineering, math, or science
- Can be part of an integrated curriculum or continuing education program at postsecondary institutions, such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities
- Includes highly complex and challenging hands-on labs
- Presents an integrated and comprehensive coverage of networking topics, from fundamentals to advanced applications and services
- Allows for a preview of the strategic direction of networking by providing an early introduction to advanced technologies, converged networked applications, and the services that networks provide to those applications
- Organizes topics to allow some flexibility in the order and delivery of the courses
- Builds deeper conceptualizations, connections, and technology language that will integrate with other engineering concepts

Who Should Consider Adopting the CCNA-B Curriculum?

The CCNA-B curriculum is primarily designed for Academies with students looking for career oriented IT-skills instruction or a quick path to job entry and career exploration. The CCNA-B curriculum has the following features:

- Designed for students with basic PC skills
- Can be delivered as an independent curriculum or integrated into broader course study at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges
- Designed to make IT relevant and encourage students to consider further education in IT as well as help prepare students for entry-level IT careers by teaching applied skills midway

through the four-course series

- Offers a hands-on, career-oriented approach to learning networking that emphasizes practical experience
- Maps more directly to everyday experiences with networks and covers key concepts according to the types of practical environments students may encounter; ranging from small office or home office (SOHO) networking to more complex enterprise and theoretical networking models later in the curriculum
- Includes activities that emphasize the implementation of networking

Availability

The English versions of CCNA-A courses 1 and 2 and CCNA-B courses 1 and 2 will be available in the June-August 2007 timeframe. The English versions of CCNA-A courses 3 and 4 and CCNA-B courses 3 and 4 will be available in the November-December 2007 timeframe. The current CCNA curriculum will continue to be made available as long as it aligns with customer needs and certification requirements.

Cisco is committed to translating the new CCNA curricula into other languages. Information about the translations that will be performed by Cisco will be announced in the June-August 2007 timeframe.

Why Choose the Cisco Networking Academy Program?

As the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet, Cisco is uniquely qualified to help educate the next generation of IT professionals through collaborations with academic partners. Education delivery also supports Cisco's culture of giving back to the community. The Networking Academy program uses a combination of face-to-face training with online curricula, hands-on lab exercises, realistic network simulation, and an Internet-based assessment tool to deliver standards-based content.

Studies around the world show a gap between the IT jobs available and qualified candidates to fill them. The Networking Academy program educates the architects of the networked economy by providing students with the skills needed to succeed in the wide range of careers available today and in the future.

By using our innovative networking technology and communications expertise to deliver IT education, we can help improve global communities, especially those that are underserved. Cisco founded the Networking Academy program to help foster access to education and professional opportunities worldwide. Since its creation in 1997, nearly two million students have enrolled at more than 10,000 Academies in more than 160 countries; creating a global community of instructors and students. We value the educators who have supported the success of the program as we enter our tenth year.

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