

CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY PROGRAM



Students Gain Opportunity

The Cisco® Networking Academy® Program offers valuable training in current technologies and provides hands-on IT experience. In a survey of 1500 former Networking Academy students worldwide who had completed one or more courses, 67 percent said that their participation helped them gain at least one job position; 20 percent said they received a better or higher-level job¹.



Students Prepare for Career in IT

IT industry leaders such as Hewlett-Packard and Panduit, and many international organizations including USAID, the World Bank, the United Nations, and ITU have joined the Cisco Networking Academy® Program. The program trains students to achieve globally recognized skills and qualifications in preparation for higher education, industry certification, and a career in IT.

The Cisco® Networking Academy® Program creates progressive opportunities for communities worldwide. The program fosters local economic growth by developing and supporting technical education. Cisco provides educational institutions with leading-edge IT curricula and hands-on lab exercises to train a workforce that may attract highly desirable technology employers.

GLOBALIZATION SPURS NEED FOR IT JOBS WORLDWIDE

The demand for a highly trained, technically savvy workforce continues to grow with the increasing reliance on IP networks in everyday life, and the need for larger and more highly integrated network designs and implementations.

Global IT market intelligence company IDC forecasts IT spending worldwide to increase by 35 percent over a five-year period (2004–2008)². With this outlook, IT education will prove highly valuable as potential employers look for talent with the latest technical skills.

Much of the available technology training often trails behind the demand for the latest technical skills, or is unavailable to would-be students in many areas of the world.

Teachers are often under-trained or insufficiently qualified, lacking the professional support and continuing education needed to keep pace with technological advancements.

HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION CRUCIAL TO ATTRACTING EMPLOYERS

Without an educational framework that can train a qualified, experienced workforce, communities cannot benefit from local IT industry opportunities—outdated courses and obsolete equipment cannot provide students with skills that attract high-technology employers locally.

For this reason, Cisco Systems created the Cisco Networking Academy Program. The program was launched in 1997, and has successfully trained more than one million students and working adults in entry-level to advanced IT courses in high schools, colleges, universities, technical and military schools, and community-based educational organizations worldwide.

CURRICULUM MAPS TO ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Developed by educators along with networking and IT professionals, Cisco Networking Academy Program courses map to standard IT certifications and academic standards in many countries. To help ensure consistent quality of education, instructor trainers must successfully complete training at authorized Cisco Academy Training Centers before training other instructors, and teachers must be trained through authorized regional training centers before they may teach Academy curriculum to students. To keep the program affordable, instructor training is offered on a cost-recovery basis.

1. Pilot exit survey conducted by Cisco Worldwide Education in April/May 2004. The survey was completed by students worldwide who were three to five months out of a Cisco CCNA® course. A slightly higher number of students in the United States participated compared to the overall percentage of Cisco CCNA students in the program.

2. Source: IDC, Worldwide Black Book, Q2'04.

The program blends high-quality, instructor-led teaching; hands-on lab exercises; and personalized, interactive online instruction with embedded assessment. E-learning enables students to learn anytime, anywhere—and it enables their teachers to provide them with one-on-one instruction so that they receive the timely support, resources, and ongoing education they require. Cisco continually maintains the curriculum, keeping it current with the latest developments in technology.

COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAM COMBINES SUCCESSFUL TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Cisco strives to make the Networking Academy program affordable for both institutions and students. Online curricula and materials, written by industry experts, are provided at no cost to nonprofit educational institutions, and Academy programs can purchase networking equipment for the hands-on labs at a substantial discount. Cisco is also introducing an innovative e-learning tool that assesses complex routing configuration tasks through autoscoring and diagnostics. This exciting Web-based technology gives students additional hands-on experience, and allows instructors to more effectively use the lab equipment in the classroom.

Course books are available but not required, as students can obtain course content and other learning tools online. There are supplementary resources available online for Academies such as instructor guides, lab manuals, solutions, and chapter presentation slides. In addition, instructors have access to additional online teaching resources submitted by thousands of instructors who teach the curriculum on a daily basis. To resolve problems and provide expert assistance, training centers offer direct support for a reasonable fee, and Cisco offers a free 24-hour helpdesk.

Recognizing today's challenging job market, Cisco also offers Networking Academy alumni the advantage of online career tools. Through a unique Academy learning model that requires "real-

world," hands-on lab exercises using the studied technology, graduates emerge as job-ready candidates for the IT workforce. Program managers in each global region have developed support models, which may include recruitment agencies or online job boards.

CISCO EXPANDS ALLIANCES ACROSS PUBLIC, PRIVATE SECTORS

Because of its enormous economic potential, IT education is becoming a worldwide governmental concern. Cisco has developed strategic collaborations with educational institutions, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies around the world. These relationships expand the professional opportunities of students and faculty, and reach out to disadvantaged and at-risk populations.

Cisco has joined a U.N.-sponsored strategic alliance to help train students in least-developed countries for jobs in the Internet economy. The alliance includes U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), U.N. Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and U.N. Volunteers (UNV). Cisco has also joined the ITU Internet Training Centers Initiative to provide students and instructors with greater access to affordable, up-to-date IT training; training centers have opened in more than 20 developing countries. Cisco has also collaborated with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and U.S. Peace Corps.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To take advantage of all that the Cisco Networking Academy Program has to offer students, instructors, educational institutions, and businesses in your community, visit our Website. You will find comprehensive program, curricula, and application information at: www.cisco.com/go/netacad.



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