



Becoming an Academy FAQ

Question 1: What is Cisco Networking Academy?

Cisco Networking Academy is an innovative education initiative that delivers IT (information technology) skills to improve career and economic opportunities around the world. Networking Academy provides online curriculum, interactive tools, and lab activities to help individuals develop the skills needed to fill IT positions in virtually every type of industry.

Networking Academies are set up in high schools, two-year colleges and technical schools, four-year colleges, universities, and community-based organizations located in over 160 countries around the world.

All students have access to the same high-quality e-learning curricula, hands-on labs, and online assessments. Courses are designed to prepare students for career opportunities, continuing education and industry-recognized certifications.

For more information, including state-by-state/provincial examples, visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/netacadresourcecenter>

Question 2: How do nonprofit educational institutions benefit?

Cisco provides a standards-based curriculum that supports core academics and aligns to industry certifications and in-demand job skills. Through a network of regional and state/provincial level instructor training centers, instructors receive training and ongoing support. To support the hands-on lab components of the curriculum, institutions receive discounts on equipment, and the curriculum is provided at no cost.

All courses align to industry certification including the recently launched Cisco Certified Entry Level Technician (CCENT™). In addition to serving as an entry-level certification for employers, CCENT helps meet the new Carl Perkins Funding (U.S. only) requirements.

Institutions have been able to integrate Networking Academy curricula into a variety of educational pathways through articulation, transcripted credit and dual enrollment.

Question 3: How does Networking Academy curricula map to industry certifications and career opportunities?

Networking Academy students choose curricula designed specifically for industry certifications leading to a range of career opportunities. Here are several key examples of pathways mapped from curricula to certification to job roles.

Curricula	IT Essentials: PC H/W and S/W	CCNA Discovery 1-2	CCNA Discovery 1-4	CCNA Exploration 1-4	CCNA Disc 1-2 and Expl 2-4
Certifications	CompTIA: A+	CCENT: Cisco Certified Entry Tech	CCNA: Cisco Certified Networking Associate		
Career Examples	Help Desk Technician System Administrator Desktop Support Technician PC and Network Support Technician		Computer Support Specialist Computer Systems Analyst Network and Computer Systems Administrator Network Sys and Data Communications Analyst Computer and Information Systems Manager		

Question 4: What are typical start-up costs and resources needed to successfully begin a Networking Academy?

Cisco licenses Networking Academy curriculum at no charge to not-for-profit educational institutions. To support success in the classroom, two critical start-up costs include: (a) funding the necessary lab equipment for the hands-on labs, and (b) instructor training and support.

EQUIPMENT

Networking Academy curriculum is built around an active learning model, so hands-on labs are critical for reinforcing concepts taught and building student skill confidence.

Cisco provides discounted pricing for Networking Academy lab equipment, which supports hands-on labs. The estimated net cost of the recommended lab equipment to support a maximum of 8 students simultaneously is US\$5500.

Packet Tracer is a visual simulation tool, provided at no cost, that supplements lab equipment.

For a more detailed estimate on equipment costs, contact SIGMAnet at AcademyOrders@SIGMAnet.com for U.S. academies, and your Area Academy Manager for Canadian academies.

Cisco curriculum is online - textbooks are not required. For those requiring textbooks, CiscoPress has optional companion guides/lab manuals: http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ac123/ac220/about_cisco_cisco_press_book_series.html.

INITIAL INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COSTS AND SUPPORT

All instructors are required to successfully complete instructor training before teaching a Networking Academy course. Instructor training is provided by regional academies. Each regional academy structures its training fees based on a cost recovery model.

For More Information

Please visit our 'Become an Academy' application site at http://prospect.netacad.net/cnacs/pub-doc/new_acad_prospect.shtml (U.S.), and http://www.cisco.com/web/CA/networking_academy/index.html (Canada). You may also contact your Area Academy Manager (U.S.):

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