



New CCNA Curriculum Webinar: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Differences between Discovery and Exploration

What is the difference between the Cisco Networking Academy® CCNA® Discovery and Exploration curricula? Are there a minimum number of class hours per curriculum?

Both CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration prepare students for CCNA certification; however, the curricula have different approaches.

- *CCNA Discovery*: Designed to be delivered as an independent, standalone curriculum, or integrated into broader courses of study at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges. Designed to make IT relevant, encourage students to consider further education in IT, and help students prepare for entry-level IT careers. Students are expected to have basic PC usage skills.
- *CCNA Exploration*: Designed to be easily integrated into curriculum or degree programs at technical schools, colleges, or universities. Designed for students who want to pursue additional technology or engineering educations while preparing for an IT career. Students are expected to have advanced problem solving and analytical skills.

Each of the new CCNA courses takes approximately 70 hours to complete.

- *CCNA Discovery*: There is a required minimum of four weeks to complete each course of CCNA Discovery and a minimum of four months to complete all four courses of CCNA Discovery.
- *CCNA Exploration*: Each CCNA Exploration course requires a minimum of four weeks to complete. Students may, however, take CCNA Exploration Routing and CCNA Exploration Switching at the same time, making it possible to complete all four CCNA Exploration courses in a minimum of three months.

EOL timelines

How long will the CCNA 3.1 curriculum continue to be supported and available?

The following table identifies additional end-of-life milestones and dates.

Milestone	Description	Date
End of offering	Last date to create new instructor classes or courses 1–4	January 31, 2008
Course 1		
End of offering	Last date to create new student classes	March 31, 2008
End of support	Last date to receive help desk support for course maintenance	July 31, 2008
End of availability	Last date to access content on Academy Connection	July 31, 2008

Courses 2–4		
End of offering	Last date to create new student classes	January 31, 2009
End of support	Last date to receive help desk support for course maintenance	July 31, 2009
End of availability	Last date to access content on Academy Connection	July 31, 2009
Certification Exams		
Certification exams retired	Last date for students to take INTRO (640-821), ICND (640-811), and CCNA (640-801) exams	July 31, 2009
Additional Resource		
Academy Connection Headline: CCNA v3.1 Student Migration Guidelines Update		

When will the opportunity to take the old CCNA exam expire for instructors?

July 31, 2009 is the last date for Cisco Networking Academy® students and instructors to take the INTRO (640-821), ICND (640-811), and CCNA (640-801) exams.

Will the Networking Academy provide vouchers for the retired INTRO, ICND, and CCNA certification exams?

The Networking Academy is providing promotional codes for these retired exams. These promotional codes allow students, instructors, and alumni to take the INTRO (640-821), ICND (640-811) and CCNA (640-801) exams that expired Nov. 6, 2007. Students, instructors, and alumni can access retired exam promotional codes through links on the following pages:

- Class home page
- Tools section of Academy Connection
- Help feature on Academy Connection

Retired exams will be available to the Networking Academy community through July 31, 2009 and promotional codes will be updated every six months.

There are two ways to register for a retired version of a certification exam using the promotional codes:

- Call a Pearson VUE service center (www.pearsonvue.com/cisco/contact).
- Register directly with a testing center. Visit www.pearsonvue.com/cisco/ to find a center near you.

Candidates will need to provide their academy name and ID.

How can students and instructors students receive an extension voucher?

Extension vouchers must be requested by instructors through the Academy Connection Help feature.

Cisco Press Books

What are the timelines for Cisco Press books for the new curricula?

CCNA Discovery

A new type of book will support the CCNA Discovery courses. The new Cisco Press **Learning Guides** will complement and supplement the CCNA Discovery courses by combining the textbook with the labs in one book per course. The books focus on readability, study aids, pedagogy, and practice. Each of the books provides tutorial content that reinforces and supplements the corresponding online curriculum. Each book will also contain the hands-on labs for the course plus additional labs from the Cisco Press authors to strengthen the learners' understanding of the course materials.

Course Name	Learning Guides
Networking for Home and Small Businesses	Available now
Working at a Small-to-Medium Business or ISP	Available now
Intro Routing and Switching in the Enterprise	Available now
Designing and Supporting Computer Networks	Available now

CCNA Exploration

Two types of books will directly support each course within the CCNA Exploration curriculum. The two book formats support each course with flexible learning and study tools.

Companion Guides are portable desk references of the Cisco Networking Academy Program course material that students can use anytime, anywhere. Companion Guides are designed to reinforce online course material, helping students focus on important concepts and organize their study time for quizzes and exams.

Labs and Study Guides, a format introduced in 2006, provides students with a convenient, complete collection of course lab exercises PLUS supplemental exercises for each of the Networking Academy courses. The Study Guide sections provide learning exercises. The course labs are designed to give students hands-on experience in a particular concept or technology. The supplemental labs from the authors provide additional hands-on practice as well as more advanced challenges.

Course Name	Companion Guides	Labs and Study Guides
Network Fundamentals	Available now	Available now
Routing Protocols and Concepts	Available now	Available now
LAN Switching and Wireless	Available now	Available now
Accessing the WAN	Available now	Available now

Migration Guidelines

If students are migrating from 3.1 or between Discovery and Exploration, how do instructors place them correctly?

Many instructors have asked for guidance in transitioning current CCNA v3.1 students over to the new CCNA Discovery or CCNA Exploration curriculum. Although there is no direct mapping between CCNA v3.1 and the new curricula, we have developed student migration guidelines to assist instructors in determining the best way to introduce students to the new and improved curricula. Instructors are welcome to adjust these guidelines as needed.

The guidelines include recommendations for filling any knowledge gaps that may occur when migrating to CCNA Discovery or CCNA Exploration. These recommendations address topics that meet the following criteria:

- Partially covered or not covered at all in CCNA v3.1

- Essential for students to understand to succeed in the new courses
- Not reviewed again in the new courses

The guidelines also attempt to limit the amount of supplemental materials that students will need to study in order to migrate to the new curricula.

Students can also start with the CCNA Discovery Course and then move to the CCNA Exploration course. In order to do this, Students would need to complete Discovery: Networking for Home *and* Small Businesses and Discovery: Working at a Small-to-Medium Business or ISP in place of the Exploration: Network Fundamentals course.

Where can I access the migration guidelines?

You can find the PowerPoint presentation on CCNA 3.1 Student Migration Guidelines by entering **Migration from CCNA 3.1** into the Academy Connection Help menu from the instructor or administrator login page.

Certification and Vouchers

Are there student and instructor discount vouchers for CCENT?

Discount vouchers are available for the current versions of the CCNA-related exams to qualified students and instructors completing the new version of the curriculum. These exams are ICND1 (640-822), ICND2 (640-816), and CCNA (640-802). Individuals who pass ICND1 (640-822) earn CCENT certification.

At this time, there is nothing in place to enable an existing CCNA instructor to receive a voucher to take the new exams.

Where can I find more information about certification vouchers?

- Login to Academy Connection and select Tools from the right navigation bar.
- Scroll to bottom of the page for Program/Marketing Tools.
- Select to the Program tab.
- Scroll to Certification and Voucher Info.
- Select the link to the slide deck.

Do students taking CCNA Exploration have the necessary preparation to take the CCENT exam?

Together, the four CCNA Exploration courses prepare students for the CCNA certification exam and for the combination of the ICND1 and ICND2 exams.

The CCENT certification objectives (ICND1 exam) are spread throughout the four CCNA Exploration courses. Unlike CCNA Discovery, there is no clear mapping of CCNA Exploration courses to the ICND1 exam.

Will CCNA Discovery prepare students to pass the new CCNA exam?

After completing the first two courses, Networking for Home and Small Businesses and Working at a Small-to-Medium Business or ISP, CCNA Discovery students are prepared to take the CCENT certification exam.

Students are prepared to take the CCNA certification exam after completing all four courses of CCNA Discovery or CCNA Exploration. Only by passing the ICND1 640-822 exam will students earn the CCENT certification.

For more information: http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/le3/le2/le45/learning_certification_level_home.html

Certification Exam Registration and Sites

Where can students take the CCENT and CCNA certification exams? How do students register and redeem vouchers?

Cisco Career Certification exams can be taken at a VUE testing center. To register, students should follow these steps:

1. In the United States and Canada call VUE at 1-877-404-EXAM (3926) or register online at <http://www.vue.com>.
2. Please have the following information available when calling or registering online:
 - Legal name as shown on a government issued ID. (A government issues ID must be presented along with another photo ID at the time of testing.)
 - Social security, passport, or VUE ID number
 - Primary mailing address and phone number
 - Company name, if applicable
 - E-mail address
 - Method of payment (voucher)

This voucher may only be redeemed at a VUE Testing Center and is governed by the following terms:

- Students must register and take the exam prior to the expiration date. Voucher expiration dates cannot be extended. Expired vouchers have no value.
- Vouchers are void if altered or revised in any way.
- Vouchers may not be redeemed for cash, credit, or refund and may not be used for any other exam.
- VUE, VUE Testing Centers, and Cisco are not responsible for vouchers that are lost or stolen.

Equipment/Regression Status on Old Equipment

What older equipment will work for labs in the new CCNA curricula? How difficult will it be to deliver the new curriculum with our current lab setups?

Overall, there has been a reduction in equipment requirements. CCNA curricula requirements now include a Linksys wireless router.

The following guides are available:

- CCNA Discovery Equipment List (Academy Connection >> Course Catalog >> select CCNA Discovery >> select CCNA Discovery Equipment List)
- CCNA Exploration Equipment List (Academy Connection >> Course Catalog >> select CCNA Exploration >> select CCNA Exploration Equipment List)
- NetAcad Maintenance – Image & Hardware Support Assistance with Legacy Equipment and Software (Academy Connection >> Tools >> select anyone of the CCNA Discovery or CCNA Exploration courses >> select Classroom Set Up tab)

IOS Images

Where can I get updated IOS images for donated Cisco routers and/or for non-Cisco routers and switches?

Downloads of IOS images for supported Cisco routers and/or switches may be included through your SMARTnet contract or Academy Maintenance Support Pilot agreement.

Cisco does not support non-Cisco equipment. Contact the equipment manufacturer for support.

Instructor training requirements

What are the training requirements for new and existing instructors for the new curricula?

Current CCNA instructors are not required to go through training, but it is strongly recommended that they read the new CCNA curricula, Interactive Course Guide (ICG), Instructor Reference Guide (IRG), and slide presentations. We estimate this preparation will take a minimum of 8-10 hours per course for CCNA Discovery and a minimum of 4-8 hours per course for CCNA Exploration.

New instructors need to complete CCNA training in an in-person environment (approximately 40 classroom hours per course) plus the Orientation course.

Instructor Resources: What and Where

What instructional resources are available for the new curriculum and where can I find them?

There are many instructor resources available on the Tools pages on the Academy Connection. These include Interactive Course Guides, Instructor Lab Manuals, Instructor Reference Guides, lab files and manuals, PowerPoint presentations, Packet Tracer, Discovery and Eagle Server set up files.

Personalized Feedback

Is individualized student feedback available in the new curricula?

The Personalized Feedback feature for assessments is not available in new curricula released after January 1, 2007. In the past, this feature allowed students to automatically get information on those topics that they had answered incorrectly while they were reviewing an exam.

Instructors should consider using the existing Gradebook functionality that allows students to temporarily view the questions of the chapter exams that they have answered.

Instructors can learn more by downloading the Assessment Personalized Feedback Functionality document. A link to the document is available in the Academy Connection Instructor Community area in the Online Assessment Forum.



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