



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). In addition, they allow for more efficient translation to support Cisco’s commitment to delivering the curricula in multiple languages.

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.

## 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 IT professionals in small-to-medium businesses as well as enterprise and service provider environments. CCNA-A was designed to be part of an integrated curriculum or continuing education program at postsecondary institutions; typically 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 quick application of learned concepts to encourage students to consider additional education in IT and helps prepare students for entry-level IT careers by teaching applied skills midway through the four-course series. CCNA-B was designed to be delivered as an independent curriculum or possibly integrated into a broader course of study at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges. It is for students with basic PC usage skills.

*\* Please note that these are not the 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 since these curricula are targeted for different educational backgrounds and interests, students will be more successful in achieving their goals. This will help improve both student and instructor satisfaction and 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 provides applied skills early 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 embedded simulation tool for e-Doing, which provides guidance and opportunities for exploration and experimentation
- Design supporting more efficient localization
- High- and low-bandwidth delivery capabilities
- 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 for 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 studies at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges

- 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 networking concepts according to the types of practical network 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
- Teaches applied skills midway through the four-course series to help make IT relevant, encourage students to consider additional education in IT, and help students prepare for entry-level IT careers

## 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

translating 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. 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.

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, approximately two million students have enrolled at more than 10,000 Academies in more than 160 countries; creating a global community of instructors and students.