

At-A-Glance: New Cisco CCNA Curricula

The Cisco® Networking Academy® is pleased to announce the next generation of our popular Cisco CCNA® curriculum. Two new curricula; CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration, have been developed to address a changing marketplace and respond to input from administrators, instructors, and students.

New features of the CCNA 4.0 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 support Cisco's commitment to global education by allowing for more efficient translation.

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 Discovery 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 and allows for quick application of learned concepts to encourage students to consider additional education in the field of information and communication technology (ICT). CCNA Discovery helps prepare students for entry-level ICT careers by teaching applied skills midway through the four-course series. It was designed to be delivered as an independent curriculum or integrated into a broader course of study at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges. It is designed for students with basic PC usage skills.
- CCNA Exploration offers in-depth theory, challenging labs, and detailed lessons about protocol operation. It helps prepare students for successful ICT careers in small-to-medium businesses as well as enterprise and service-provider environments. CCNA Exploration was designed to be part of an integrated curriculum or continuing education program at post-secondary institutions such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities. CCNA Exploration is for students with advanced problem solving and analytical skills, such as students who are pursuing degrees in engineering, math, or science.

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

The new CCNA curricula were created in response to input from the global Networking Academy community. CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration target different student segments based on academic experience and goals. By using different methodologies to teach students with different educational backgrounds and interests, we can help students successfully achieve their learning goals. This will improve both student and instructor satisfaction and help increase enrollment rates.

CCNA Discovery maps to everyday experiences with networks. The curriculum is organized around the types of work environments students may encounter, such as a home or small offices, and students develop applied skills early in the curriculum. CCNA Exploration goes into greater technical depth and incorporates engineering concepts and terminology.

Advantages of the New CCNA Curricula

Both CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration 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 network simulation tool for e-doing, which provides guidance and opportunities for exploration and experimentation
- Designed to support 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 Discovery Curriculum?

The CCNA Discovery curriculum is primarily designed for academies with students looking for career-oriented, ICT-skills instruction or a quick path to job entry and career exploration. The CCNA Discovery 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 home office or small business networking to more complex enterprise and theoretical networking models later in the curriculum
- Includes activities that emphasize the implementation of networking

Who Should Consider Adopting the CCNA Exploration Curriculum?

Academies with students who prefer a challenging, theoretical, and integrated approach typically used at higher-education institutions should consider adopting CCNA Exploration, 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
- Previews the future direction of networking with an early introduction to advanced technologies such as voice, video, wireless, and security
- Familiarizes students with 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

Availability

The English versions of CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration are now available.

Cisco is committed to translating the new CCNA curricula into other languages. Please contact your local Networking Academy representative for the most current information about translated versions of the curricula.

Why Choose Cisco Networking Academy?

Cisco Networking Academy has been educating the architects of the networked economy since 1997. Networking Academy uses the two great equalizers in life—education and the Internet—to teach ICT skills to students from virtually every socioeconomic background and region of the world. These skills help narrow the technology skills gap while enabling communities and countries to compete in the twenty-first century economy.

Networking Academy delivers marketable ICT skills to approximately 600,000 students in more than 160 countries each year. Academies are located in secondary schools, two-year colleges and technical schools, four-year colleges, universities, and community-based organizations; with more than 10,000 locations around the world. All students have access to the same high-quality e-learning curricula, hands-on labs, and online assessments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the new CCNA Discovery curricula, visit www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/course_catalog/CCNADiscovery.html

For more information about the new CCNA Exploration curricula, visit www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/course_catalog/CCNAexploration.html



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