



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TYPES OF ACADEMIES

Who should participate in the Cisco Networking Academy?

The Cisco Networking Academy is a networking education initiative developed by Cisco world wide especially for educational institutions. Any institution that ties up with Cisco to offer this program is called a Cisco Networking Academy. Students can undertake courses after enrolling with such institutions (called Local or Regional Academies). Private and commercial companies or organizations can participate in Netacad only as sponsors, i.e. for recruiting Academy graduates and not for offering this curriculum.

What is a Local or Regional Academy?

Local Academies are institutions responsible for having trained instructors who teach the curriculum to students. These instructors supervise the students as they design, build, and maintain their institution's network. Local Academies are administered by Regional Academies who have administrative responsibilities for managing atleast twenty (20) Local Academies; they generally designate a full time employee to manage the Networking Academies; and they attend Cisco training and in turn train their Local Academy instructors.

So what is the difference between a Regional and a Local Academy?

Regional Academies track the equipment inventory of their Local Academies and answer curriculum questions or refer them back to the Cisco Networking Academy team. Regional Academies also act as Local Academies since they teach the curriculum to their own students. The Regional Academies are selected based on performance in the program as well as standing in the academic community.

Can a Local Academy exist without a Regional Academy to support it?

No. Regional Academies provide many services to Local Academies such that Local's cannot exist without a supporting Regional.

Can a training institute become a Cisco Networking Academy and offer the course?

Commercial training institutes CANNOT be a part of this initiative as they run any program for PROFIT while the Networking Academy Initiative is non profit in nature. Hence we look at only technical institutions, polytechnics approved by AICTE or UGC colleges that have a University Approval Affiliation (offering MCA, BCA, IT course, etc) or schools approved by the respective board like CBSE or state boards. In short only authorised institutes that are approved by Cisco can enrol as a Networking Academy.

CURRICULUM AND COURSE DELIVERY

Are there any pre requisites for the Cisco Networking Academy curriculum, either for the students or for the Regional or Local Academy instructors?

It depends on the kind of curriculum offered at the academy. For courses like IT Essentials, Unix and Java we assume instructors and students to have basic computer literacy. For advanced courses like CCNA, instructors should have ideally been teaching networking as a subject. For students, the curriculum assumes no prior knowledge of computer or networking. Cisco requires the instructors to read the curriculum before attending training and hence it's assumed that they are computer proficient and have some basic knowledge of Networking.

Which curriculum is exactly offered at these academies and how can I see a sample?

Cisco Networking Academies offer a multitude of curriculum depending on what they have signed up for. Some academies offer CCNA Discovery and Exploration, some IT essentials, CCNP or a mix of all. CCNA for example, is designed to teach students the skills needed to design build and maintain small to medium-size networks. Below are the objectives of each of the modules of a typical CCNA course offering.

CCNA Discovery	Course Content
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Home and Small Business Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to networking • Basic cabling for SOHO • LAN addressing and network services • Basic wireless and security • Troubleshooting – plan/build home network
Networking at a Small-to-Medium Business or an ISP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to OSI model/TCP model • SMB routing and switching • WAN technology • IP addressing • Network devices and cabling • Security / disaster recovery
Introducing Routing and Switching in the Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise overview • LAN/WAN performance • IP addressing – VLSM and subnetting • Advanced switching and routing • EIGRP, OSPF, VLANs, VTP, Frame Relay • LAN/WAN/VLAN troubleshooting
Designing and Supporting Computer Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design concepts and equipment selection • IP addressing on a LAN/WAN • Network design • Cisco device configuration upgrade • Stronger theoretical notion of converged networks

CCNA Exploration	Course Content
Networking Fundamentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Advanced Technologies and Converged Networks • Top-Down Approach to Networking
Routing Protocols and Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dynamic Routing protocols • VLSM, OSPF, EIGRP • More challenging labs
LAN Switching and Wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch Configuration • Rapid Spanning Tree protocol • Wireless concepts • VLAN's & IP Telephony basics
Accessing the WAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New WAN concepts • ACLs, VPN concepts • PPP, PPPoE and Frame relay, etc

The url of the site where one can check more details of the curriculum is http://www.cisco.com/en/US/learning/netacad/course_catalog/index.html

What is the duration and typical length of course delivery of these curriculums?

Depending on the curriculum, the Cisco Networking Academy program curriculum varies from 70 to 280 hours. The most popular offering CCNA Discovery or Exploration has a total duration of 280 hours including hands on lab practical. Generally, universities and technical institutions deliver the CCNA curriculum in 4 - 6 months, while undergraduate colleges deliver the curriculum in 6 months -1.5 years. No academy can deliver CCNA curriculum in less than 3 months, as this would cause unfair competition with Cisco's Learning Partners, which deliver Cisco's commercial curriculum, but there is no upper limit on how long one module or the entire curriculum delivery may take.



Why did Cisco create two CCNA curricula?

CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration have been created in response to input from administrators, instructors, and students. CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration target different student segments based on their 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. Both curricula are designed to help students prepare for IT professional careers and the CCNA certification exam.

CCNA Discovery is designed for students with basic PC skills and can be delivered as an independent curriculum or integrated into broader courses of study at secondary schools, technical schools, colleges and universities.

CCNA Exploration is designed for students with advanced problem solving and analytical skills, such as those who are pursuing degrees in engineering, math, or science. CCNA Exploration can be integrated into technology curricula or continuing education programs such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities.

Students who enroll in CCNA Exploration will be expected to know binary math and understand the concept of algorithms, whereas students who enroll in CCNA Discovery will not be expected to have this knowledge and the curriculum will provide expanded explanations or tools such as a binary calculator.

Are the courses designed to contain any particular number of students per class?

Cisco's only requirement is that there be no more than three students to a computer. The optimum is 20 students, but it's possible to have 25 and some even have 30.

Is there any limitation on the number of classes or courses we can offer using this program?

No. You can offer it as many times as you want. And if you decide that you need a second lab, you may purchase one, if required for example in courses like CCNA

Are students expected to print manuals from the Web, or do they purchase manuals separately?

You wouldn't want to print this curriculum from the Web, since so much of it contains Macromedia Flash™ movies and animation. The materials that are online are presently meeting teachers' and students' needs. Cisco has a special deal with the publisher Pearson for providing the companion books and journals to students at discounted prices for a few courses.

Does the curriculum teach students things that will be useful for maintaining non-Cisco networks?

Absolutely. As much as possible, this is a vendor-neutral curriculum. Basic courses like IT Essentials are generic in nature. Panduit sponsors the Network Infrastructure Essentials. While Cisco equipment is used to practice and reinforce certain concepts, students gain broad-based knowledge of the operation of networks, the differences between various types of networking products, how to design and troubleshoot networks, and other general topics.

For Cisco Certified Networking Associate program i.e. CCNA, are the four modules sequential in nature; in other words, is the first module a prerequisite for the second and so on?

They are prerequisite and sequential based for CCNA Discovery curriculum.

In the CCNA Exploration course post the Networking Fundamentals module, the faculty can choose to offer either Routing Protocols and Concepts or LAN Switching and Wireless in any order. LAN Switching and Wireless can also be run in parallel to Accessing the WAN module. The courses are designed to be taught about two hours a day, five days per week, but the setup can be changed to accommodate block class scheduling.

What is the profile of the faculty required to teach the program?

The instructors need to be preferably computer graduates with an experience of teaching networking as a subject or have requisite hands on networking experience.

EQUIPMENT

What kinds of labs and equipment are required?



Every curriculum has different requirement. However, each academy will need to provide at least one Curriculum Delivery classroom with networked PCs for implementing any course. In the case of CCNA minimum one Network Practice lab with network hubs, network management software, cable testers, crimping tools, Cisco routers/switches, if required, a rack to house the equipment will suffice. The Network lab can be a part of an existing computer lab.

Does Cisco or its partners assist in installing new hardware/software for the Academy?

In the instructor training, instructors are shown how to set up the equipment that is part of that module curriculum. The instructors are shown everything that they need to install for that module.

Does the institute require the equipment in one go or can purchase it in instalments?

The institute needs to purchase the active and passive equipment in one shot (students need to simulate the WAN and LAN environment)

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

What is the duration of instructor training for various curriculums offering?

Each curriculum has different training instructor time frames reliant on the complexity of the curriculum. Orientation is a Self Paced E-learning course completed at own institute)

IT Essentials PC H/W & S/W	6 days
IT Essentials Network Operating Systems	6 days
CCNA	19 days
CCNP	40 days
Network Security	10 days
Fundamentals of Wireless LANs	6 days

How are the Regional Academy instructors trained?

Cisco Academy Training Centres (CATC) train Regional Academy instructors. In South Asia, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT Hyd) is the CATC for CCNA, Security and Wireless course while Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeeth is the CATC for curriculum like IT Essentials, Unix and Java.. For CCNP the training is done abroad or an instructor flies down to India if it's a big batch size.

How are the Local Academy instructors trained?

Local Academy instructors are trained by their Regional Academy Trainers.

For example for CCNA Regional Academies generally deliver the training in at least 19 days scheduled in two blocks, with CCNA 1 and 2 combined, and then CCNA 3 and 4 offered later. The first module instructor-training course is five days, the second module course is six days, and the third and fourth module courses are four days each. It is mandatory for CCNA instructors to teach atleast one module *i.e CCNA 1 or both CCNA 1 and 2 before enrolling for CCNA 3 & 4 module instructor training.

What does the Local Academy training cost?

Local Academy training costs, if any, are set by the Regional Academy on a cost recovery basis. On an average basis the instructor training fee works out to be Rs 1250/day of training besides the service and education cess.

How many people can an academy send for training?

Every academy is expected to have 2 trained faculties to run the program. Since institutions do face a difficulty in sparing 2 faculties at the same time, there is an option of sending them in sequential batches.

Can an institute send more than 2 people for training?

Yes if you are planning to run a number of classes it's advisable to send more than 2 instructors. This would enable optimum sharing of the workload. .

ASSESSMENT

Are students assessed as they progress through the curriculum?



Yes, Cisco has developed a state-of-the-art assessment system to provide students, instructors, administrators and Cisco personnel with free access to detailed data on student progress.

What Certifications do students earn on completion of a curriculum?. Are there any international certifications that they get?

Each student is eligible to a completion certificate on finishing the curriculum and passing the requisite internal exam. Post passing the internal examination, any student is eligible to take any of the international certifications at the Pearson Vue testing centres. Successfully passing the concerned exam a student can earn the following certification

Curriculum	Certification
IT Essentials PC Hardware and Software	CompTIA A+ certification exam
CCNA Discovery 1 -4 CCNA Exploration 1- 4	Cisco Certified Network Associate – CCNA
CCNA Discovery 1-2	Cisco Certified Entry Network Technician – CCENT
CCNP	Cisco Certified Network Professional – CCNP

Given their differences, how can CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration both align with the CCNA certification?

The CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration courses teach the same applied skills but present the information in different ways to appeal to the two student segments. Each curriculum provides relevant and effective lessons to engage students and ensure they are successful in learning the material in a way that aligns with their educational backgrounds and goals.

Where are the international tests given?

The tests are given at Pearson VUE testing centres worldwide. If required, Cisco can arrange to have mobile testing done at the institute provided you have > 50 students taking the exam at one time.

Is it mandatory for instructors to take the certification of the curriculum they are offering? For example - Do instructors take the CCNA test?

Yes, instructors are expected to pass the CCNA international test within 1 year of getting trained on all modules. Instructors are provisionally certified for each module after attending training for that module and passing the module -specific final exam. Instructors passing all required tests are granted a Cisco Certified Academic Instructor (CCAI) certificate as well as the CCNA certificate. Same is the case for other curriculum where an instructor becomes a CCAI for the relevant curriculum on completion of the certification and meeting other pre requisites.

How much does the CCNA test cost for students and instructors?

A 80% discount is offered to Academy students, through PEARSON VUE testing centres, who complete all four CCNA modules and successfully qualify in the first attempt the final exam of the fourth course with 75% or higher. Instructors need to obtain > 80% to qualify for the discount. With the discount voucher of 70%, the cost for taking the CCNA exam is equivalent local currency of USD 50.00 in South Asia region. The discount only applies to the first time the test is taken.

Can students or instructors retake the CCNA test if they fail? If so, is there a limit to the number of times the test may be taken?

The test may be retaken an unlimited amount of times by instructors, but the discount applies only to the first time the test is taken.

Should the institute include the fee for the final CCNA exam in the student fee? Does the testing fee need to be paid to the parent academy?

In case the institute is becoming a testing centre i.e. at the site itself then it's the institute's discretion to add the testing fee to the student fee. The testing fee needs to be paid to the testing agency namely PEARSON Vue and not to the parent academy.



Is it compulsory for the student to undertake the international certification?

No, it's not mandatory and is the student's discretion. However the industry value comes only once a student is able to show the prospective employer the final certificate. It's like doing the school internal class 12'th exam but not taking the final board exam.

Is there any fee to be paid to Cisco for the internal module exams or the curriculum

This is a philanthropic initiative run by Cisco and is offered FREE of cost to the academy. The academy only needs to invest in the equipment, training and support required to implement the Networking Academy.

PLACEMENT

How employable will the graduates of the CCNA program be?

Cisco's customers tell us that their most critical problem is finding skilled people to design and maintain their growing networks. Therefore CCNA and CCNP certificate holders should be very employable. Other certifications post completion of IT Essentials build the grounding for gaining a foothold in the IT industry. A recent study by IDC and e-value serve suggests that the current demand for networking professionals in India stands over 50,000. This deficit is expected to grow at a CAGR of 21.6% till 2010.

Does Cisco help Academy students and graduates find employment?

Cisco has created an internship website called Career Connection that helps current Academy students find intern and full time positions with various companies. You can view the site at www.academy.monster.com Companies currently advertise positions of all kinds, to Academy students, who can access the system free of charge and submit resumes for job openings.

OTHER GENERAL & FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

What sort of commitments do Academies make when they sign up for Netacad?

- Existing IT curriculum and focus
- Networking infrastructure
- Understanding of the outcomes and benefits
- The Principal/Dean/VC/Director and Top Mgmt. needs to be fully engaged
- Strong and Suitable Student base
- Committed Faculty
- Funding for investment in Program
- Quality focused management
- The Academy must "invest" in the administrative needs of the program

What are the financial investments for running the Cisco Networking Academy?

There is no outflow from the academy to Cisco or any other party - remember it's a non profit initiative. All the institutes need to do is invest in administrative activities like instructor training, annual mentoring and support as well as in active and passive equipment (for example in CCNA). The assumption is that the institution already has a networked computer lab of atleast 10 – 15 PC's with a dedicated Internet connection.

What is the control on cost of the CISCO courses, these academies will run?

Every Academy has to submit a cost calculation sheet (a part of the agreement which they sign with the Regional Academy). Both Cisco and the Regional Academy (in case of Local Academies) ensure that the Academy is working only on a cost recovery mode and not making profits in the venture. All academies are governed by the Quality Audit Plan (QAP). The RA is monitored by the CATC (Cisco Academic Training Centre that is housed in IIIT Hyd and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeeth) to ensure that quality offering of the course is happening. The RA in turn is trained to do a Quality Audit across all its Local Academies. A lot of the times, the CATC accompanies the RA when it is doing the QAP for its Local Academies



What is the fee that we ought to charge our students?

We leave it to the discretion of the institute. As long its cost recovery and not profit making its fine. Currently, the range across South Asian countries varies from academies that offer it FREE (as a value add to students) to Indian Rs 20,000 for the entire course.

*Although Cisco provides online support 24*7*365 what kind of support and service can we expect & get from a parent academy which is chargeable?*

A parent academy will help you in mentoring and regular support. The parent academies provide initial training for local instructors on how to teach each of the module courses. They also serve as the major support for the local academies regarding classroom setup, technical questions, curriculum questions, equipment needs or any other topic identified. Support to local academies may be provided through on-site visits, observations, seminars, workshops and recommended specific on-line resources.

What are some of the benefits that Networking Academy can provide to our institution?

It provides the opportunity for students to obtain internationally recognised certifications. This certification is designed to meet employment standards for the networking industry. Institution can gain resources to help maintain their own internal networks, which saves them money. They further benefit from the knowledge that they are playing an important role in the preparation of 21st century workers, which solves a critical problem around the world – the shortage of skilled network administrators.

How can I apply to become a Cisco Networking Academy?

For more details kindly visit www.cisco.com/asiapac/academy

You can either send an email to: lokesh@cisco.com

OR send a letter to

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OR

go to the website at

<http://www.cisco.com/asiapac/academy/apply.html> providing your name, institution name, address and telephone/e-mail number with a short description about your education institution.