Cisco Virtual Classroom Instruction Specialist Certification

Q. Why did Cisco release the new Virtual Classroom Instruction training and Specialist certification?

A. Job training and education continue to move online, where skilled instructors use collaboration and conferencing tools to produce learner outcomes that equal, and even exceed, those of traditional classrooms. The best virtual classroom instructors plan their materials and instruction to engage learners and increase participation in the learning process. Cisco's new Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction training helps instructors develop their skills and Specialist certification allows them to validate and prove their expertise.

Q. Who is the primary audience for Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction?

A. The course is appropriate for instructors in career training or academic environments who are either new to virtual classrooms or want to develop excellence in their ability to deliver engaging and impactful virtual training sessions. The course is appropriate for instructors of both technical and non-technical material.

Q. What knowledge or prerequisites do instructors need to be successful in Virtual Classroom certification or training?

A. There are no formal prerequisites for Cisco Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction training or Specialist certification, however working knowledge of conferencing and collaboration tools, like those provided by Cisco WebEx, is assumed. Prior to enrolling, participants can explore the instructor-led and self-paced training options on Cisco WebEx University.

Q. What topics are covered in this new Virtual Classroom training?

A. Cisco's Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction teaches instructors how to prepare and manage a virtual classroom session, effectively deliver material online, use interactive tools and activities for collaboration, motivate and engage learners and judge student comprehension, and evaluate the effectiveness of virtual training.

Q. Do you need to be a WebEx customer to take the training?

A. You do not need to be a Cisco WebEx subscriber to access WebEx-based training. The Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction training is accessible via any computing device with an Internet connection. It is not recommended for learners to participate via a handheld device, as it limits their view of the session tools.

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Q. What if I use a non-WebEx conferencing solution (like Adobe Connect)? Does the certification apply to me? Will I be able to pass the exams?

A. Cisco Virtual Classroom Instruction certification does not depend on any specific conferencing or collaboration platform. Candidates will not be assessed on their knowledge of the specific platform, but on their knowledge of how to deliver engaging and participatory learning sessions

Q. Do you have to take the Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction (LVCI) training to attempt certification?

A. No, you may attempt the Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction (LVCI) exams without attending the course if you feel you have developed the skills through other means. Before scheduling your exam, you should review the list of exam topics and fill any gaps in your knowledge or skills.

Q. Do you have to take the LVCI Written Exam before you take the Practical Exam?

A. The LVCI written exam, which is taken at Pearson VUE, must be passed before you are eligible to submit your LVCI practical demonstration, which is also administered through Pearson VUE.

Q. How does the Virtual Classroom Instruction Specialist certification differ from currently available Cisco associate and entry level certifications?

A. The skills required of Virtual Classroom Instruction Specialist are not only useful to instructors working with Cisco WebEx, but are also highly transferable to any other conferencing and collaboration platform. Cisco expects the certification to appeal to instructors in academic and career training environments, in both technical and non-technical areas.

Q. What is the recertification policy for the Virtual Classroom Instruction Specialist?

A. Like other Cisco Specialist certifications, Virtual Classroom Instruction Specialist certification is valid for three years. Recertification is achieved by taking and passing exam #640-132 LVCI, the 75-question, multiple-choice exam taken at any Pearson VUE testing center.

Q. How is the training associated with the Virtual Classroom Specialist being delivered?

A. The course is delivered virtually using the Cisco WebEx conferencing and collaboration environment, a web-based service that works on any computing device with internet access--Windows, Mac, Linux or Solaris. Participants do not need to be WebEx subscribers to attend the virtual training.

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Q. What are the qualifications of the instructors teaching Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction?

A. The course is delivered by Cisco WebEx University instructors, who have collectively delivered over 40,000 virtual training sessions and have developed a robust set of best practices and proven instruction techniques.

Q. How many hours is the training?

A. The course consists of 17 ½ hours of live virtual instruction and six hours of student presentations, delivered over five consecutive days. In addition, an online collaboration space, threaded discussions, and live chat provide maximum opportunity for interaction with the instructor and other course participants.

Q. Can the course be condensed and delivered over a shorter timeframe, for instructors who have trouble freeing up a five-day block of time?

A. Yes, customized delivery of Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction can be arranged for a group or organization with at least 8 participants. For more information on custom delivery, contact training@webex.com.

Q. What is the price for the new Virtual Classroom Instruction Specialist training and certification?

A. The five-day Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction course is priced at $1395 and certification is achieved by passing a multiple choice exam priced at $150 and a practical exam, the price of which is yet to be announced. Candidates schedule their exams through Cisco's worldwide official testing vendor, Pearson VUE.

Q. Are both exams taken at Pearson VUE testing facilities?

A. The 75-minute multiple choice exam can be taken at any worldwide Pearson VUE testing facility. The practical exam requires a 20-27 minute WebEx recording of the candidate leading a virtual classroom session be submitted to Pearson VUE for scoring. More details about the specifications for the recording and the submission procedures are available for the Practical Exam on CLN.

Q. Can interested candidates use Cisco Learning Credits to purchase Virtual Classroom training?

A. No, at this time Learning Credits may not be used for payment of products purchased on the Cisco Learning Network Store.

Q. Is Virtual Classroom training or certification part of the Cisco Learning Partner or Networking Academy program? If not, are there plans to make it part of these programs?

A. At this point, Virtual Classroom Instruction training and Specialist certification are not requirements of Cisco Certified Instructors or instructors participating in the Cisco Networking Academy program. As more technical instruction moves online, Cisco will work with its Learning Partners to incorporate virtual training skills into its programs.

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Q. Will the Virtual Classroom Specialist be made available at the time of the launch? If not, what is the release schedule?

A. Cisco Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction training and the #640-132 LVCI exam will be available at launch. Candidates for certification will be able to schedule and submit their practical exam (#640-133 LVCIP) with Pearson VUE on/by March 15, 2011.

Q. Where can interested candidates find more information about the new Virtual Classroom Specialist?

A. More information about Cisco's Leading Virtual Classroom Instruction training and Specialist certification is available at www.cisco.com/go/virtualclassroom.

Q. Will Cisco Learning Partners begin offering virtual versions of Cisco training courses?

A. Many Cisco Certified Learning Partners are already using virtual classroom delivery to teach Cisco training courses. Cisco is now developing training materials and labs that are specifically designed for virtual classrooms, to ensure an optimal learning experience. Virtual conversions of the two CCNA courses--Interconnecting Cisco Network Devices, Part 1 (ICND1) and Part 2 (ICND2)—have already been made available to Cisco Learning Partners. More virtual conversions of key Cisco career training courses will follow this year.

Q. Are Cisco Certified Systems Instructors (CCSIs) required to become certified as Virtual Classroom Instruction Specialists?

A. At this point it is strongly recommended that instructors teaching in a virtual environment be trained and certified in the skills and techniques for collaboration and interaction in the virtual classroom. The official requirements of the CCSI program are being reviewed, to ensure Cisco certified instructors deliver a satisfying and successful classroom experience, as more training takes place in a virtual environment.