

Microsoft IT Academy Program: Get College Credit for your Certifications



Microsoft Certification Exams: Accelerate Your IT Career *and* Earn College Credit

With the cost of a college credit hour skyrocketing, you can save time and money toward your college degree by earning selected certifications. Becoming certified and applying for credit is an excellent way to help you reach your academic and career goals!

College credit recommendations are intended for the United States only. However, if you are a student overseas—this is a great way to get credit if you plan to study in the United States.

Microsoft Certification exams recognize and validate real-world IT skills, offer a lifelong career path of IT skills development, and support the certified community by providing access to unique resources. Microsoft Certifications can help you with continuing studies and can also help your résumé stand out. In fact, Microsoft Certification exams are continually measured and updated against real-life business challenges to ensure that they reflect the skills and expertise required to get ahead.



Three factors drive the need for certification:

- **Lack of qualified employees.** An IDC study suggests there will be a 40 percent gap in the next 5 to 10 years between the demand for, and supply of, IT professionals with the right technical skills¹.
- **Need for training on core systems.** According to a Gartner study, 40 percent of operational downtime is due to operator error—attributable to a significant lack of training on core systems².
- **Student demand.** Students want to attain a competitive edge to improve employability and earning potential, especially in today's job market. In fact, 55 percent of hiring managers consider employee certification a criterion for hiring³.

Receive College Credit Now for Selected Microsoft Certifications

The American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and recommended college credit for selected Microsoft certifications. Approved certifications are eligible for one to six semester hours of college credit in bachelor's degree or associate degree classes on computer applications, information technology, or computer information systems. Credits are available for selected MOS and IT certifications. The Accreditation Program helps students achieve employability and academic goals, as well as bridging the gap between workforce training and the classroom.

- Learn more about earning college credit for Microsoft Certifications by visiting <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/mos-college-credit.aspx>



To qualify for the Accreditation Program, you must have passed a selected Microsoft Certification within the last three years. Receiving a college equivalency recommendation on a Microsoft Certification from ACE also makes you eligible for corporate tuition assistance. (Employers have differing policies; contact your human resources department for more information). The college or university you attend (or plan to attend) will decide whether to grant credit and waive associated tuition requirements.

- Learn how to acquire an ACE transcript by visiting <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/college-credit.aspx#ace>.