

## WHY CERTIFY?

A network administrator performs day-to-day maintenance of network elements such as user setup, workstation and printer setup, and system configuration. The MCSA is intended for systems administrators, help desk personnel and others involved in installing, managing and troubleshooting Microsoft systems and networks. For many technology professionals, the MCSA is a good fit with their job titles. CertCities.com put the MCSA at the top of its list of certifications touting it the "hottest new certification in the industry."

Microsoft certifications represent a rich and varied spectrum of job roles and responsibilities; earning your certification provides validation of your ability to perform critical IT functions. Microsoft certifications are recognized worldwide and remain an effective way to reach long-term IT career goals. In addition, employers continue to rely on certifications to acquire and retain skilled IT staff.

A recent issue of Microsoft Certified Professional Magazine indicated that salaries for certified IT professional are on the rise. The author also noted that "there's a heightened interest in pursuing credentials on Windows Server 2003."

Once you obtain your MCSA, you will probably want to advance your networking knowledge and work towards your MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) certification.

## QUESTIONS?

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## MICROSOFT MCSA CERTIFICATION CLASSES

## ONLINE

## MCSA BENEFITS

- ☞ College credits toward your certificate or AAS degree
- ☞ Online format accessible 24/7 via the web
- ☞ Self-paced program allows flexibility
- ☞ Prestige of obtaining certification
- ☞ Job opportunities
- ☞ Affordable cost



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## ONLINE MCSA PROGRAM

### WHAT IS THE MCSA?

MCSA stands for Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator, a credential offered by Microsoft that demonstrates you have the skills to successfully implement, manage, and troubleshoot the ongoing needs of Microsoft Windows 2003-based operating environments, including Windows 2003 Server. To learn more about the MCSA, you can visit [www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/mcsa/windows2003](http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/mcsa/windows2003).

### DO I QUALIFY?

Students enrolling in this program should have a fundamental knowledge of computers and should have completed IS 101 or the equivalent.

### WHAT ARE THE CLASSES?

There are 5 classes that make up this series:

- ☞ CIT 112B (prepares for CompTIA Network+)
- ☞ CIT 211B (prepares for MS exam 70-270)
- ☞ CIT 212B (prepares for MS exam 70-290)
- ☞ CIT 213B (prepares for MS exam 70-291)
- ☞ CIT 215B (prepares for MS exam 70-284)

### HOW ARE THE CLASSES OFFERED?

The online classes will be held via the Internet using WebCT. This allows students the flexibility of working whenever they want and from anywhere they choose. These classes can be accessed 24/7 via the web from anywhere in the world.

### WHAT MICROSOFT EXAMS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE MCSA?

To receive your MCSA on Windows Server 2003, you will need to pass four exams (3 Core and 1 Elective):

- ☞ 70-270: Installing, Configuring, and Administering Microsoft Windows XP Professional (Core)
- ☞ 70-290: Managing and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Environment (Core)
- ☞ 70-291: Implementing, Managing, and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Network Infrastructure (Core)
- ☞ 70-284: Implementing and Managing Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 (Elective)

### WHAT CERTIFICATIONS WILL I HAVE WHEN I'M FINISHED?

If you complete all 5 courses and pass the CompTIA & Microsoft exams, you will have the following certifications:

- ☞ CompTIA Network+
- ☞ Microsoft MCP (Microsoft Certified Professional)
- ☞ Microsoft MCSA

### WHAT IS THE COST?

Costs are based on CCSN Tuition and Fees. Each class is 3 credits and currently costs \$174. Books cost around \$50 per course. This makes the total cost of tuition and books approximately \$1120. This is a huge value compared to national training centers and bootcamps offering the MCSA program at costs that range from \$4495 to \$8545. Exam prices range from \$125 to \$199. However, CCSN is a VUE testing center and can sometimes offer discounted pricing. To see current exam fees, go to [itcert.ccsn.net](http://itcert.ccsn.net).

### CAN I GET MY MCSA IN ONE SEMESTER?

Yes, if you're diligent and willing to put in the time, it is possible to complete all the courses in one semester. The courses build on each other, so one should be completed before moving to the next (for instance CIT 112B should be completed before beginning CIT 211B). The courses are offered over a full semester (September-December). However, the self-paced format of these courses allows students to complete the courses anytime within that framework. This means that one student could take CIT 112B in the fall and utilize the entire semester to complete the course. But another student could choose to complete CIT 112B in several weeks and then move on to CIT 211B or other courses throughout the semester.

### WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

CCSN has a high-tech networking lab which is designed specifically for students in the networking program. The lab is open 7 days a week and as a CCSN student you will have access to this lab. This will allow you to gain practical hands-on experience.

If you have your own network at home that you wish to use for your hands-on practice, CCSN has a Microsoft License that will provide you with a free copy of XP and the Enterprise Server 2003 that can be used to practice all installations and configurations on your equipment.