

Industry Certifications At-A-Glance

Why is Certification Important?

In today's world of intense competition in the workplace, the need for proficiency in the principles and practices of workplace skills is the concern of all businesses, companies, schools, and individuals. Certification is verification of that proficiency. It provides assurance that the person performing the work is qualified and up-to-date on the latest techniques and has the experience and knowledge to apply them.

But why would you want to be certified?

- It gives important and needed recognition to those who are certified
- It provides objectives for improvement and advancement for the certified field
- To give employers a way of judging the qualifications of potential employees

Who is using Industry Certifications?

Numerous states, including Wisconsin, have been using industry certifications in the area of Information and Computer Technology for at least five years. However, in many of the other areas of Business Education, there are a few states that have adopted certification testing and made it a common practice. A couple of these states are Utah, Missouri, and Virginia.

However, Utah has mainly built their own state-wide testing system based upon adopted curriculum. Whereas, Virginia has utilized industry certifications and turned this into “verified” credit for its students. Many other states have adopted the use of only a couple of certifications or it is “hit-and-miss” depending upon school district.

Potential Certifications in the Business & Information Technology Area

International Association of Administrative Professionals www.iaap-hq.org

Tests are costly at \$220

Workplace requirements after testing to keep certification

Possible Tests at IAAP

- Basic/Consumer Law
- Information Systems
- Accounting
- Communications

Brainbench Certifications www.brainbench.com

Test costs are usually \$19.95 or \$49.95; however, you can find a few FREE ones
 Advantage at Brainbench is the "Learn" section of the site
 Partnership with FBLA

Possible Tests at Brainbench (Not an all inclusive listing)

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Accounts Payable | • Client/Server Concepts | • MS Windows |
| • Fundamentals | • Cisco Network Support/Design | • MS Suite (Individual Tests) |
| • Accounts Receivable/Billing | • Computer Fundamentals | • Networking Concepts |
| • Adobe Illustrator | • Consumer Finance | • Office Procedures |
| • Adobe Pagemaker | • Dreamweaver | • Peachtree |
| • Adobe PhotoShop | • E-commerce Concepts | • Sales Fundamentals |
| • Advertising Industry Knowledge | • Fireworks | • Server Administration |
| • Business Communication | • Flash | • Typing Speed & Accuracy (FREE) |
| • Business Writing | • Internet Concepts | • Web Design Concepts |
| • C++ | • Java | |
| | • Marketing Concepts & Strategy | |

ProSoft Training www.prosofttraining.com

Vendor-neutral certification
 Practice tests and curriculum available
 Cost of teach exam is unavailable at this time

Possible Tests at Prosoft

- Certified Webmaster Associate
- Certification in Convergent Network Technologies

Certiport www.certiport.com

Widely used and recognized
 Tests range from \$20-60
 Each school district can become a testing center

Possible Tests at Certiport

- IC3 Certification (Introductory Certification)
- MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) Certification
- WOW Certified Apprentice Webmaster
- A+ Certification

CompTia www.comptia.org

Nonmember pricing is \$145 per exam

Possible tests at Comptia

- A+ Certification
- Linux+
- I-Net+

Electronics Technicians Association International www.eta-sda.com

Study materials available
Each school may become a testing site
Costs are unavailable on the site

Possible certifications from ETAI

- Computer Service Technician
- Certified Computing Professional
- Customer Service Specialist
- Certified Network Computer Technician

American Hotel & Motel Association www.ei-ahma.org

Online exams
Skills for Success program and materials available
High school specific program
Tests are costly at \$325

Possible Certifications with AHMA

- Front Desk Agent
- Hospitality Specific
- Reservationist

Novell, Inc. www.novell.com

Study materials available online
Cost per test is \$125

Possible Certifications with Novell

- Certified Novell Administrator
- Certified Novell Engineer
- Certified Internet Architect

Cisco www.cisco.com

Expensive to get started
Exam costs range from \$125-250

Possible Certifications with Cisco

- Certified Internet Expert
- Certified Design Associate/Professional
- Certified Network Associate.Professional

Oracle www.oracle.com

Online tutor and guides
Exam cost = \$90

Possible Certifications with Oracle

- Oracle Certified Developer Associate

Microsoft www.microsoft.com/

Tons of educational materials on their site
Each school can become an IT Academy
IT Academies are expensive ranging from \$1500-5000

Possible Certifications with Microsoft

- MS Certified Professional: Visual Basic
- MS Certified Professional: Visual C++
- MS Certified Systems Administrator
- MS Certified Systems Engineer

Sales and Service Voluntary Partnership www.ssvolpart.org

Industry standards are linked directly to the test
Partnership with DECA
Certification cost is \$20
Online testing

Possible Certifications with Cisco

- National Professional Certification in Customer Service

National Occupational Competency Testing Institute www.nocti.org

Costs are \$17.50 per written or performance test OR \$20 for both
NOCTI certifies all teachers in numerous states including Michigan
Tests can be taken online or a testing proctor can be setup at your school
All competencies are available online

Possible Certifications with NOCTI

- Accounting
- Computer Technology
- Business Information Processing
- Advertising and Design
- Workplace Readiness
- Computer Programming
- Microcomputer Repair