



CCNA Curriculum Selection Guidelines

The purpose of document is to help Academies to determine which CCNA curriculum—CCNA Discovery or CCNA Exploration, or both—is best suited for their teaching environment. Please refer to the CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration FAQs, Scope and Sequence documents, PowerPoint presentations, and other documents available on Academy Connection for additional information.

Table 1. CCNA Curriculum Selection Chart

| Question | CCNA Discovery | CCNA Exploration |
|---|---|---|
| What are your students' academic capabilities? | Designed for students with basic PC skills | Designed for students with advanced problem solving and analytical skills |
| What are your students' goals? | Designed to make IT relevant, encourage students to consider further education in IT, and help students prepare for entry-level IT careers by teaching applied skills midway through the four-course series | Designed for students who want to pursue additional technology or engineering education while preparing for an IT career. |
| How will your institution deliver the CCNA curriculum? | Can be delivered as an independent, standalone curriculum, or integrated into broader courses of study at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges | Can be part of an integrated curriculum or continuing education program at post secondary institutions such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities |
| Which curriculum best aligns with your teaching methodology and your students' interests? | Teaches networking based on application. Maps more directly to everyday experiences with networks and covers main networking concepts based on the types of practical network environments students may encounter, from home and small business networking to more complex enterprise and theoretical networking models later in the curriculum; uses easy-to-follow labs; provides general theory; and offers a career-oriented approach to learning networking The step-by-step labs provide detailed instructions to help students reach the final solution. Students can check their answers after each step. | Teaches networking based on technology concepts (protocols, LANs, WANs) Designed to allow students to learn skills in a more rigorous, comprehensive, theoretical, and practical way that is reflective of standard college and university-level educational practices; uses language that allows for integration with other engineering concepts; and includes complex and challenging hands-on labs. Students must derive final lab solutions without detailed information about each step. Lab exercises may require some additional research. |
| Is the existing CCNA curriculum too difficult for your students in terms of theoretical topics? | Yes, the current CCNA curriculum is too difficult | No, the current CCNA curriculum is just right or not challenging enough. |



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