

Vermont Networking Academies

South Burlington High School

550 Dorset Street

South Burlington, VT 05403

Expanded Cisco Networking Academy Course Offerings

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Cisco, the leading manufacturer of internetworking hardware and software, has developed a program to teach students how to create, manage, maintain and repair computer networks. To support this program, Cisco has created an outstanding support system and e-learning infrastructure. Over the past year, Cisco has opened this infrastructure up to other information technology (IT) companies to deliver additional IT-related courses.

Cisco has added a total of five new courses to the existing networking academy system. These include:

- Fundamentals of Web Design (sponsored by Adobe Systems)
- Fundamentals of Java Programming (sponsored by Sun Microsystems)
- Fundamentals of Unix (sponsored by Sun Microsystems)
- Fundamentals of Voice & Data Cabling (sponsored by Panduit)
- IT Essentials I & 2 (sponsored by Hewlett Packard)

We have been teaching the first two of these new “Sponsored Curriculum” courses at South Burlington High School, and have achieved a high level of success and student satisfaction with both Fundamentals of Web Design and Fundamentals of Unix. We are convinced that other schools will be able to replicate our success with these programs.

The companies that are joining forces with Cisco to offer these programs have recognized the strength of the Cisco e-learning system to provide a number of important features, including:

- web-based curriculum development, distribution and delivery systems,
- an online assessment and student reporting system,
- an extensive academy support system, including an online learning community and a hierarchical layered support system,
- a quality control system, and
- instructor training and professional development programs.

Cisco and its partners have also worked together to reduce the financial investment required of schools seeking to offer these courses by identifying free software, and arranging for some of the most impressive discounts available to education for other software and hardware necessary for course delivery. We can work with you to identify the hardware and software requirements for each of these courses at your institution.

The online curriculum, assessment system, and online support are available at no charge to schools that agree to offer these programs. The requirements for the school include providing a teacher and the physical resources necessary to offer the courses, as outlined in the Quality Assurance Program, and to establish a relationship with the regional academy to provide instructor training, first-tier support and ongoing professional development. The instructor must become certified to teach the course prior to offering it to students. This certification includes an orientation course, which serves to introduce the instructor to the Cisco Networking Academy e-learning system, and 5 - 6 days of preparatory coursework to familiarize the instructor with the course and provide strategies for its delivery.

We will be offering the orientation in an online format in early July, and the IT Essentials I course July 29 – August 2. The Fundamentals of Web Design instructor course will be offered August 5-10. We welcome instructors from your school in these summer courses.

I have included a document that further describes the new courses and provides examples of instructor preparation costs. We have also scheduled a Cisco Semester 1 instructor preparation course July 29 – August 1 that is available if you would like to offer the Cisco Networking Academy program at your school.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss these opportunities with you further. You can also find more information on our new website, <http://VTacad.net>.

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