

# Advance Your Career

## CCNP Certification

# Expand Your Professional Options

Do you want to learn how to install, configure, and maintain large, multi-protocol networks? Are you trying to increase your knowledge, sharpen your competitive edge, or advance your career? The expertise you develop when preparing for the CCNP® (Cisco Certified Network Professional) certification will add to your skill set and help you expand your professional options.

### Gaining and Certifying Advanced Skills

The CCNP certification validates an individual's networking skills at the mid-career level. Candidates who pass the required proctored exams will receive a CCNP certificate from Cisco and may use the CCNP designation on their business cards.

CCNP forms the professional level of the Cisco Career Certification program.

To help candidates prepare for the certification exams, Cisco Learning Partners offer the following services:

- Instructor-led and e-learning courses
- Mentoring and online chat rooms
- Hands-on skills development via Internet-enabled remote labs

Additional resources are available through the Cisco Learning Store.

### Benefits of CCNP Certification

Overall, Cisco certification validates an individual's achievement, so it increases the holder's professional credibility by ensuring high standards of technical expertise.

In particular, the CCNP certification indicates knowledge of networking for

organizations whose networks have from 100 to more than 500 nodes.

A CCNP certified individual can perform the following tasks:

- Implement appropriate technologies to build a scalable routed network
- Build campus networks using multilayer switching technologies
- Improve traffic flow, reliability, redundancy, and performance for campus LANs, routed and switched WANs, and remote access networks
- Deploy QoS, VPN, and converged networks in the enterprise
- Troubleshoot an environment that uses Cisco routers and switches for multiprotocol client hosts and services

Positions for a CCNP certified individual include:

- Network administrator
- Level 2 support engineer
- Level 2 systems engineer
- Network technician
- Deployment engineer

Note: Candidates may earn CCNP certification without taking any courses but they must hold valid CCNA® certificates when registering for the CCNP exam.

Career certifications can be renewed by passing exams. Associate and Professional certifications are valid for three years, CCIE® certification and Cisco Qualified Specialist designation for two years.

## The Path to CCNP Certification

**1. Meet certification prerequisites.** CCNP certification requires a valid CCNA certification. Gain the basic knowledge of network support—and demonstrate it with CCNA certification—before beginning the curriculum for CCNP certification.

**2. Determine your training needs.** Review the CCNP exams listed below and their associated preparation courses. Find the course descriptions on the Training Web site ([www.cisco.com/go/training](http://www.cisco.com/go/training)). If you can meet the objectives, go to step 4.

Course	Exam
Building Scalable Cisco Internetworks (BSCI)	BSCI #642-801
Building Cisco Multilayer Switched Networks (BCMSN)	(BCMSN) #642-811
Building Cisco Remote Access Networks (BCRAN)	(BCRAN) #642-821
Cisco Internetwork Troubleshooting (CIT)	CIT #642-831

*Alternative exam path:* Foundation Exam # 640-841, a single exam, is equivalent to the first three exams

**3. Develop new skills in courses or self-study.** Read about the e-learning and instructor-led versions of the courses you need. Decide on a course and, using the Learning Locator on the Training Web site, find a Cisco Learning Partner who offers it. Link to the Cisco Learning Store to review additional training materials.

**4. Take one or more of the CCNP exams.** Look on the Certifications Web site for exam information. Register on line and take the proctored exam in a secure environment. When you pass all the CCNP certification exams, you receive a certificate in the mail and a designation to place on your business card.

## Information and Resources

**About Cisco Learning Partners**—Cisco Learning Partners are the only source of authorized Cisco training. Carefully selected by Cisco Systems, these companies are the only organizations to employ Certified Cisco Systems Instructors and deliver Cisco authorized and approved content.

[www.cisco.com/go/training](http://www.cisco.com/go/training)

**About Cisco Career Certifications**—This program awards certifications in network support and design to individuals who demonstrate proficiency in proctored exams at the highest level and hands-on laboratory work.

[www.cisco.com/go/certifications](http://www.cisco.com/go/certifications)

**About Cisco Networking Academy Program**—This program, with its hands-on comprehensive curriculum, helps high school and college students gain real-world skills and prepare for the CCNA.

[www.cisco.com/edu/academias](http://www.cisco.com/edu/academias)

**About E-Learning**—E-Learning is the Cisco Internet-enabled learning approach. E-Learning can offer content delivery in multiple formats, Web-based management of the learning experience, and a networked community of learners and experts. An increasing number of courses are available in e-learning editions.

[www.cisco.com/go/ciscolearningcourses](http://www.cisco.com/go/ciscolearningcourses)



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