



Welcome to the distance learning course:

Computer Network I (DVA120)

This document will provide information about the course.

To get started with this course, the first step being for you to get a student account and register for the course. After that we can register you in the systems you need to access during this course. When attending the course we will use several tools that you will have to learn and be comfortable using. All of these will be introduced briefly in this document.

Once we have started the course the best way to get started is by getting acquainted with the tools that are introduced in the following sections and then start asking questions. When you have gotten this far you should be able to access the course material either through Blackboard or the Cisco Networking Academy (also introduced later).

Get a student account

When you have been admitted and replied to your program/course you need to follow the “Checklist for new students” to create a student account in order to be able to log into computers, access course material, get into your e-mail and use other IT resources. You also need to register for this course at this site. Follow this link to complete the Checklist for new students:

<http://www.mdh.se/student/nystudent>

It is important to check and read your student e-mail continuously to not miss any announcements. One of the first mails you receive will guide you through the registration at Cisco’s Networking Academy (introduced later in this document). If you have any problems with getting a student account or to register to this course you can contact “The Student Center”:

<http://www.mdh.se/student/service>

The Student portal

Here you will find your course schedules, study results, student e-mail, current registrations for courses and study programs etc. You log in with your student user name and password.

<https://portal.mdh.se/student/>

Blackboard

The blackboard will be your and our main resource for this course and contain as much information as we can possibly put there. It will also serve as our main communication channel to get information to you as fast as we can.

<https://blackboard.mdh.se/>

When you are registered at the University you will be able to logon to the blackboard site, and when you are registered at the course you will gain access to this course's page at Blackboard. You need to complete the "Checklist for new students" and wait for 6 hours before you can access the Blackboard homepage.

Cisco Networking Academy "Netspace"

In this course you will be enrolled as a student at the Cisco Networking Academy which will provide you with the web-based course material, chapter tests, quizzes, labs and Final exams. You will participate in the two first courses Cisco offer in their academy program; "Introduction to Networks" and "Routing and Switching Essentials". Both courses will end with a Final Exam that will examine your knowledge.

<https://www.netacad.com>

You have to register yourself to the Cisco Netspace as a part of the Roll-Call, more information about this later.

Packet Tracer

Packet Tracer is a tool to simulate and test network topologies and will be your main method in learning how to build networks. Within the curriculum found at the Networking Academy there will be sections with links to lab exercises. These could either be done with real equipment (routers, switches and computers) or they could be done in Packet Tracer. There are usually 2 sections in a row, the first one supplying you with the Packet Tracer topologies which also contain the instructions for the specific lab and the following section will contain a link to a lab manual for hands-on-labs.

Packet Tracer can be found either at Blackboard or Cisco Networking Academy. *Please note that, in order to avoid any compatibility issue, you should use **Packet Tracer 6.3**.*

Roll-Call

The first thing you have to do in this course is to complete the “Roll-Call” to ensure your registration to this course. The “Roll-call” will be open a limited time for you to complete, you can find the time-limit for this further down in this letter (Important Dates). If you don’t have completed this step before the end-date you will be deregistered from this course. On Blackboard you will find a document under “Registration on Netspace” where you find all the information you need to register on Netspace. On Netspace you will find the course curriculum, labs and more so take some time to look around. You will also need to complete a “Pre-test exam” on Netspace and you will find this test under “assignment”-menu. This test will not be graded and it is just a test for you to test your knowledge and a part of the roll-call. The pre-test will be activated on Monday 28th of August and will remain active until Friday 1st of September. If you have any problem with any of this steps, please contact us!

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about anything regarding this course, Please contact one of us, preferably by email (In Swedish or English).

Mohammad Ashjaei (main instructor): Tel. +46(0) 21151772
Mohammad.ashjaei@mdh.se

Joakim Wangborn (co-instructor): Tel. +46(0)21151776
joakim.wangborn@mdh.se

Please note that we are not able to answer the calls all the time as we may be in meetings, lectures or trips. Therefore, we suggest you to first contact us via email or through netacad. This is probably faster for us to answer.

Division for Student Affairs, Office of Admission.

If you have any questions regarding your studies at Mälardalen University you can contact our student career counselor Malin Åshuvud, malin.ashuvud@mdh.se Phone: +46(0)21-101546.

Questions regarding admissions and eligibility can be addressed to the Division for Student Affairs, Office of Admission.

Address: Division for Student Affairs, Office of Admission, Box 325, 631 05 Eskilstuna, Sweden ▪ Email: antagningen@mdh.se ▪ Phone: +46 (0)16-153250

The Examination

To achieve a grade in this course you will have to pass all of these tasks:

- **Cisco Chapter Tests in “Introduction to Networks” and “Routing and Switching Essentials”.**
These tests will be issued within the Cisco Networking Academy. These are mandatory and have to be accomplished before you are allowed to attempt the Final Exams. To pass a chapter test you need to achieve a score above 50% on it and you can retake this tests as many times as you like.
- **Cisco Final Exam in “Introduction to Networks” and “Routing and Switching Essentials”.**
These tests will be issued within the Cisco Networking Academy and be graded with a percentage. To pass the course requirement you must achieve a score above 70% on both Final exams. You will find the date for these tests further down in this document.
- **Skill Based Test.**
These tests will be issued within the Cisco Networking Academy. This will test your skill in cabling and configuring a basic Network topology based on routers and switches. It will be issued through Netspace and you will use Packet Tracer to do this test. You will find the date for this test further down in this document.
- **Written Exam.**
This test will test your knowledge in networking fundamentals and router/routing-functions. The written test contains different types of questions including multiple choices and essay questions. You will get more information about this test later in this course.

By passing the Final Exams and Skill-based Exam you get 4.0hp and by passing Written Exam you get 3.5hp, which makes a total of 7.5hp for the course.

Important Note: The exams are open for 3 days and you can start it whenever you can during the opening days. For Final Exam, Skill-Based Test or Written Exam you have only one chance to do. The above exams will not be activated more than once during the course examination. For those who fail or not having a chance to do any of the mentioned exams there will be another chance, during the next course examination period. The chapter exams can be done as many times as you want.

Important Dates

Course Start	- The 28 th of August 2017
Roll-call and pre-test exam	- The 28 th - 1 st of September 2017
Cisco Final Exam 1	- The 25 th of September 2017
Cisco Final Exam 2	- The 23 th of October 2017
Skill Based Test	- The 26 th of October 2017
Written Exam	- The 30 th of October 2017

Recommended Pace

It is important that you plan your studies well to minimize the stress that can arise in courses on this level. The chart shown below is the "minimal" pace you have to maintain to get through all the theoretical material covered in this course. You should use this template when planning your studies. Be sure not to drop behind, because the contents of the material gets more complex in the later chapters so you may actually have to plan more time for those chapters. If you have any questions about this do not hesitate to contact us.

w.35	Chapters	1,2,3	Introduction to Networks
w.36	Chapters	4,5,6	Introduction to Networks
w.37	Chapters	7,8,9	Introduction to Networks
w.38	Chapters	10,11	Introduction to Networks
w.39	Chapters	1,2,3	Routing and Switching Essentials (+Final Exam 1)
w.40	Chapters	4,5,6	Routing Protocols and Concepts
w.41	Chapters	7,8,9	Routing Protocols and Concepts
w.42	Chapters	10,11	Routing Protocols and Concepts
w.43	Final Exam 2, Skille-Based Test		
w.44	Written Exam		

When you are reading the course material we recommend that you test your skills in the Packet Tracer lab assignments as you go along. After you finished reading a chapter it is recommended that you first test your knowledge with the quiz in the material and if you got a decent result there you should log on to Cisco Networking academy and take the test for that chapter. You can take chapters tests several times for rehearsal.