CompTIA Certification Exams

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Why Be Certified?

Having certifications in your resume is an important factor for a successful IT career.

This typically means 2 to 4 weeks of intensive cramming per test while taking the practice tests until you can consistently score 100%.

The class schedule will specify which exam is relevant.

- You should be maintaining an A or B in the class and be current with your assignments.

- You must be willing to spend the extra time practicing. This could mean 2 or more hours a day for 3 to 4 weeks.

What Practice Tests Are and Aren't

Please read the information at the following link.

https://transcender.wordpress.com/2011/05/31/the-anatomy-of-a-good-item-or-why-the-heck-should-i-read-those-long-boring-explanations/

The class you are taking gives you the baseline information in the subject area, but it not enough to pass the certification exam. You will need to put in some extra study time. If you

can consistently get 100% on practice tests or study guides, you have a good chance of passing the certification exam.

The best time to take a certification exam is toward the end of the class, while you are still in the middle of the material. Don't wait, because the information will go away.

Certification Study Resources

- Professor Messer (YouTube resource for CompTIA concepts.)

- Darrel Gibson's Certification Resources (Books and practice tests)

- 6 Certification Exam Mistakes to Avoid

- 6 Tips for Passing a Microsoft Certification Exam (from Someone Who Hates Taking Tests)

- CertBlaster Certification Learning Resources

- CompTIA's web site with information about the A+ certification exams

- Comptia Website with Network+ Exam Information

- Actualtests (Study guides and practice tests)

- MeasureUp (Study guides and practice tests)

- TestKing Study Guides (Study guides and practice tests)

- Certification Exam Skills 101: Test Taking Tricks & Tips (Excellent article with test taking tips)

- Top 10 Certifications with Staying Power

Best Practices for Passing a Certification Test

- Take the Microsoft Office Specialist exams if you are in Microcomputer Applications, Spreadsheets or Database or have already taken those classes. Those exams are simpler and good practice for taking certification exams.

- Set aside 2 to 4 weeks for intensive cramming and taking practice tests per exam. How long it takes you depends on your knowledge and the time you spend. This is not a long-term project designed for long term memory, you are trying to cram short tern information in, pass the certification exam, and move on. In the real world, if you need this information, you look it up.

- Study. Certification Exams require knowledge beyond what you learned in class.

- As you are working through the practice test in study mode, look up the wrong answers on the internet. Look up and research information in this area. Memorizing the answers to a practice test will not help you pass the certification test.

- Schedule your test with PearsonVue before you are ready to give yourself a studying deadline.

- Test anxiety. Even I get a bit of test anxiety when doing a certification test. Just remember, you know this stuff, take a deep breath and focus.

- If you don't know the answer, start by eliminating the answers that aren't correct.

- If you don't pass the first time, don't give up. Study and try again. Tests are randomized, sometimes you get an easy test, and sometimes you get a hard test.

- Schedule a time every day to study and take practice tests.

- Don't memorize the answers to the practice tests. Study the information and knowledge in the area that the practice test works with.

- Watch this video for tips on how to use a Practice Test to Study: http://somup.com/cbl2YuVt0g

Purchase Certification Vouchers

Discounted Voucher Prices from WNCC

- A+ Exam retail price: $246, WNCC voucher price: $112
  - You must take both A+ exams to be certified.

- Network+ retail price: $358, WNCC voucher price: $173

- Security+ retail price: $392, WNCC voucher price: $254

Purchase a Discounted Voucher from WNCC

1. Contact William Loring at loringw@wncc.edu with the exam name you wish to take.

2. Pay for the voucher at the business office in Scottsbluff, Sidney, or Alliance. (308) 635-6700. Tell them it is for a certification voucher for Bill Loring under Student Training Costs.

3. After you have paid, show William Loring the receipt or e-mail a scan of the receipt. He will e-mail you your voucher code. The vouchers are good for 1 year after purchase.

Schedule Your CompTIA Exam

1. Go to http://www.pearsonvue.com. Go to for test takers.

2. Search for your testing program: CompTIA

3. Sign in to an existing account, or create a new account. Click View Exams.

4. Select the exam you wish to take. Choose the one that says CompTIA Academic.

    a. 220-1001 A+ Hardware Certification Exam

    b. 220-1002 A+ Software Certification Exam

    c. N10-007 Network+ Certification Exam

    d. SY0-601 Security+ Certification Exam

    e. XK0-004 Linux+ Certification Exam

    f. SK0-005 Server+ Certification Exam

5. Click Schedule this Exam.

6. Answer the questions.

7. Currently many test centers are closed, including WNCC. There is an online exam option.

8. Select a date.

9. Select an appointment. Click Next.

10. Review Appointment Details. Proceed to Checkout.

11. Answer the Questions. Put in your voucher number. You should have 0.00 Due. Submit Order.

12. You will get a confirmation of your exam details.