Clubs and Certifications

The dirty little secret about technical certifications is they take time, effort, and money to accumulate. We can teach a decent overview course for most CompTIA certifications in a 10-week quarter. But it takes another month or so to review and do a focused cram for the exam itself. Even then many students may need an exam retake, because they may need to fail once to find out what is really on the test. Then they can cram again with focus and confidence. So a 20-credit school program like Cloud Micropathways is really stretching it if people imagine students will pass 20 credits in two quarters and, at the same time, earn 4 certificates. That’s just not real. 20 credits + 4 professional certificates is at least a 12 month process, in my opinion.

The good news about technical certifications is one or two is all you need, at least for entry. My recommendation is AWS Cloud Practitioner, which is relatively cheap and easy. Then pick maybe one of these: CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, or PMI Project Management Ready. Really, once a person has even ONE certificate, he/she can get job interview credit by saying they are “working on” another one. Representing progress can often be as effective as representing completion.

How do clubs fit into this? Simply, clubs are a catch-all holding area for students to hang-out, support each other, and peer-tutor each other for certificate cram. No deadlines with clubs. No fees to pay. It’s a true Community of Practice. Students can hang out in the club world and build their skills and vocabulary knowledge a little at a time. Then, when they are ready, they can push for actual certificates.