

**Computer Networking Academy I (CVCNA1)
Advanced Certificate**

Program Effective Term: Fall 2004

This Cisco Networking Academy program prepares you for a job as a network technician where you will install, configure, and troubleshoot Local Area Networks under the supervision of a network administrator. The focus is placed on cabling systems and internetworking hardware. It also gives you the knowledge you'll need to pass the Cisco Certified Network Associate exam.

Program Admission Requirements:

Students must complete the Computer Systems Technology (CTCSTC) Certificate with a GPA of 2.0 or better or have equivalent industry experience to be admitted into the program.

Major/Area Requirements		(16 credits)
CNT 206	Internetworking I - Fundamentals	4
CNT 216	Internetworking II - Routers	4
CNT 226	Internetworking III - Switches	4
CNT 236	Internetworking IV - WANs	4

Minimum Credits Required for the Program: 16

Washtenaw Community College Program Change Request Form

Program Code: CVCNT

Program Name: Computer Networking Technology I

Effective Term: Fall 2001

A program sheet for the above named program is attached. It should reflect any approved changes that have already been submitted for this year. Please review the program sheet carefully and indicate any changes that you would like to make. Draw lines through anything that should be removed and write in any additions. Extensive narrative changes may be written on a separate sheet. Check the boxes below for each type of change being proposed. If courses are being changed as part of this proposal, they must be approved separately, using a Course-Syllabus Approval Form (CSAF).

1. Requested Changes:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove Course(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Add Course(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase/Decrease Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Sequence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name (new name _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Major/Program Code (new code _____)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advisors
<input type="checkbox"/> Articulation Agreements
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Admission Requirements/Procedures
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Eligibility Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Footnotes
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

Show all changes on the attached program sheet if possible.

Rationale for Proposed Changes:

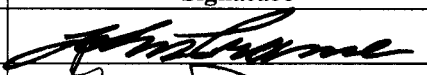

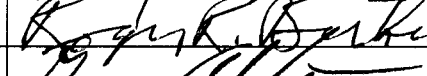
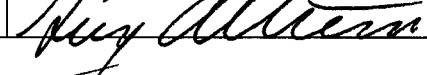
see attachments

3. Financial/Staffing/Equipment/Space Implications:

4. Has the department consulted with all departments that may be impacted? Yes No NA

Comments:

Signatures:

Reviewer	Print Name	Signature	Date
Program Change Initiator:	John Trzeme		3/6/2001
Department Chair:	Gary Downen		3/6/01
Division Dean:			3/6/01
VP, Instruction/Student Services:			4/26

Access Program File 3/30/01

Log 3/30/01 JZV

Copied and Returned _____
New Listing to: Counseling; Admissions

**WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST**

(1) Program Title: Computer Networking Technology I Program Number: CVCNT
 Effective Term: Fall 2001

(2) Change Information:

Current Program Course Requirements:		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
CNT 200	Networking Fundamentals	4
CNT 215	Structured Cabling Systems	4
CNT 225	Introduction to Routers	4
Program Options		
Novell NetWare Option		
CNT 210	NetWare Administration	3
CNT220	Advanced NetWare Administration	3
Microsoft Windows NT Option		
CNT 211	Administering MS Windows NT	3
CNT 221	Supporting MS Windows NT Core Technologies	3
Current Total Credits:		18
Non-Course Program Requirements:		

Proposed Program Course Requirements:		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
CNT 206	Internetworking I	4
CNT 216	Internetworking II	4
CNT 226	Internetworking III	4
CNT 236	Internetworking IV	4
Current Total Credits:		16
Non-Course Program Requirements:		

(3) Rationale for Proposed Changes:

To permit content delivery in a more timely fashion; therefore, creating a more competitive program for the IT market. change the name & description to reflect the fact that this is a

(4) Financial/Staffing/Resource Implications of Change:

Cisco Networking Academy.

(5) Has this program change been reviewed by all affected instructional departments? YES _____ NO _____

(6) Signatures

Comments

Signature

Date

Program Change Initiator		<i>[Signature]</i>	
Department Chair(s) or Area Director		<i>[Signature]</i>	
Dean(s)		<i>[Signature]</i>	
VP for Instruction/Student Services		<i>[Signature]</i>	

Computer Networking Academy I (CVCNT) Advanced Certificate

Program Effective Term: Fall 2001

This Cisco® Networking Academy program prepares you for a job as a network technician where you will install, configure, and troubleshoot Local Area Networks under the supervision of a network administrator. The focus is placed on cabling systems and internetworking hardware. It also gives you the knowledge you'll need to pass the Cisco® Certified Network Associate exam.

Business Division

Computer Instruction and Electronics Department

Advisors: Michael Galea, Roland Meade, John Trame

Program Admission Requirements:

•Completion of the Computer Systems Technology Certificate (CTCSTC) with a GPA of 2.0 or better or equivalent industry experience

Major/Area Requirements (16 Credits)

CNT 206	Internetworking I	4
CNT 216	Internetworking II	4
CNT 226	Internetworking III	4
CNT 236	Internetworking IV	4

Minimum Credits Required for the Program: 16

Washtenaw Community College EEO / Title IX / Section 504 Statement

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, height, weight, marital status, or veteran status in provision of its educational programs and services or in employment opportunities and benefits. WCC is committed to compliance in all of its activities and services with the requirements of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Act 453, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Public Act 220, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Inquiries concerning programs and services under Title IX and Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act should be directed to the Office of the Dean of Student Services; Room 225A, Student Center Building, 734- 973-3536. Inquiries regarding compliance in employment should be directed to the College Affirmative Action Officer in the Office of Human Resource Management, Room 120, Business Education Building, 934- 973-3497. Inquiries concerning access to facilities should be directed to the Director of Plant Operations, Plant Operations Building, 734- 677-5300.

Program Approval Document

Advanced Certificate

Type of Degree or Certificate

In

**ADVANCED COMPUTER
NETWORKING TECHNOLOGY**

Name of Program

Prepared by

John Trame

And

Michael Galea

Washtenaw Community College

DATE: March 16, 1999

**WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION FORM**

1. Program Title: Advanced Computer Networking Technology Program Code: CNTA
 2. Division: BCTEC 3. Department: CISD/ELGD CIP Code: _____
 4. Type of Program: A.A. A.S. A.A.S. A.T.S.
 Advanced Certificate Mastery Certificate Achievement Certificate Certificate of Completion
 5. Will this program be Perkins funded? yes no 6. Effective Year: Fall 1999

7. Program Description (for Catalog, brochures, etc.):
 This is an advanced certificate program in Network Engineering. The program will provide two options: (a) Novell Engineer, and (b) Microsoft Engineer. These options will provide the students with the knowledge and skills to design, install, configure, and troubleshoot Local and Wide Area Networks, as well as pass either the Novell Certified NetWare Engineer or Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer exams.

8. Advisors: Gary Downen, Charles Finkbeiner, Michael Galea, Phil Geyer, Usha Jindal, Laurence Krieg, Roland Meade, John Rinn, John Trame, Catherine Wagner

9. Admissions Criteria:	10. Criteria for Continuing Program Eligibility:
Completion of the Computer Networking Technology Mastery Certificate <u>CNT</u> <u>Advanced</u>	

11. Attach a Program Approval Document [PAD], which includes the following:

A. Program Description	D. Enrollment Projections	G. Analysis of Affected Instructional Units
B. Program Goals	E. Program Cost Analysis	H. Articulations
C. Needs Assessment	F. Course Descriptions	I. Licensure/Accreditation

Approval Recommended:	Print Name	Signature	Date
Program Initiator:	<u>John Trame/Michael Galea</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3-17-99</u>
Department Chair/Director:	<u>John Trame/Roland Meade</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3-17-99</u>
Dean:	<u>Bella G. Tucker</u> <u>3/23/99</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3/17/99</u>
VP, Instruction/Student Services:		<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>4/25/99</u>
President:		<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>6/13/99</u>
Date of Board Approval:	<u>April 27, 1999</u>		

Available on disk

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM

Course	Title	Credit	Pre-requisites/Co-requisites
	<u>Novell NetWare® Option</u>		
CNT 230 †	NetWare® 5 Service and Support	4	Completion of the Computer Networking Technology Certificate, or equivalent experience.
✓ CNT 235	Broadband Networks	4	Prerequisite: CNT 225
CNT 240 †	Novell Directory Services NDS Design and Implementation	3	Prerequisite: CNT 220
✓ CNT 245	Managing Internetworks	4	Prerequisite: CNT 225
CNT 250 †	Integrating Windows® NT into a Novell® Network	3	Prerequisite: CNT 220
✓ CNT 255 ²	Heterogeneous Internetworks and Intranetworks	4	Corequisite: CNT 250 or pre req.
CNT 265 ³	Network Design	4	Corequisite: CNT 255
	<u>Microsoft Windows® NT Option</u>	<u>26</u>	10 option dependent
1) ✓ CNT 231 †	Supporting Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0 Enterprise Technologies	3	Completion of the Computer Networking Technology Certificate, or equivalent experience.
✓ CNT 235	Broadband Networks	4	Prerequisite: CNT 225
✓ CNT 241 †	Internetworking Microsoft TCP/IP on Microsoft Windows NT Server	3	Prerequisite: CNT 221
2) ✓ CNT 245	Managing Internetworks	4	Prerequisite: CNT-225
✓ CNT 251 †	Microsoft® Internet Information Server Creating and Configuring a Web Server using Microsoft Tools	3	Prerequisite: CNT 231 Corequisite: CNT 241 or pre req.
3) ✓ CNT 255 ²	Heterogeneous Internetworks and Intranetworks	4	Prerequisite: CNT 241
✓ CNT 265 ³	Network Design	4	Corequisite: CNT 255 or pre req. 9 option -
	Total Credits:	24	

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This certificate program trains individuals for employment as network design and implementation professionals. The program thoroughly prepares the student to pass either Novell's Certified NetWare Engineer (CNE) exams or Microsoft Certified Network Engineer (MCSE) exams. The program covers core hardware skills including designing, configuring, installing, diagnosing, repairing, upgrading and maintaining Local Area Networks (LANs) and Wide Area Networks (WANs). In addition, Network Operating Systems (MS Windows NT, Novell NetWare, and UNIX) are covered in depth.

B. PROGRAM GOALS

This program is designed to educate students in the field of computer network design, installation, management, and troubleshooting. Students will learn how to design, install, manage, and troubleshoot networks from small, simple, heterogeneous Local Area Networks, to large, complex, heterogeneous, international Wide Area Networks, including unified voice, video, and data networks. Topics will include cabling standards; protocols; security, equipment selection, installation, management, and troubleshooting, writing Requests For Proposals, selecting vendors and service providers. Graduates of this program will be employable as network administrators.

C. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Studies abound at the national, state and local level, documenting the tremendous need for network technicians, and engineers for government, education, business and industry. The local need for Washtenaw County is documented in the ICARD study of 1998. Salaries for graduates of this program are expected to start at \$45,000 per year. Ceiling wages for graduates of this program with a few years of on the job experience may top \$100,000 per year. See attachment A.

D. ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

The fall of 1999 should see enrollments of approximately 120 students. Enrollment should increase approximately twenty percent per year, for four to five years, at which point enrollment should stabilize. Steady enrollments should be maintained for approximately ten years, at which time we may notice a gradual decrease for up to five years. Stability is expected to set in once more, with a significant number of employees returning for updated education/retraining.

CISCO Router and Premise Wiring

Description	Part No.	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
Server - DELL PowerEdge 1300 w/raid controller		2	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
PC w/modem/CD/ NIC 10GB hd		14	\$1,650.00	\$23,100.00
Network Printer	HP4000TN	2	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
Docking Station for removable Hard Drives		14	\$25.00	\$350.00
Removable Hard drive (4.3 GB) - Need 1 per PC		28	\$160.00	\$4,480.00
Computer/Server Subtotal				\$36,930.00
Description	Part No.	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
MS Win NT Server w/5 Client	NT8137	1	\$390.00	\$390.00
MS Technet Unlimited Users	NT7549	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Software Subtotal				\$390.00
1', 3' and 5' patch cords	fiberdine	100	\$5.00	\$500.00
PVC White Cat 5 Bulk Cable 1000 ft	DBC4558WT	3	\$139.99	\$419.97
1000 ct Cat 5 RJ45 Connectors	???	1000	\$0.49	\$490.00
Cable Wrap-Lite 1000 pack	?????	1000	\$0.20	\$200.00
Vari-Pak Cable Tie Kit 650	DAD1455	6	\$49.99	\$299.94
Surface Mount Box, face plate, Jack 100pack	???	100	\$9.00	\$900.00
RJ45/11 Tool-Ratchet, Cutter, & Stripper	DTO1102	24	\$160.00	\$3,840.00
Professional LAN Tool Kit	DTK1425	1	\$240.00	\$240.00
Hubbell Rack 78"H x 19"W x 30"D	DRA1587	2	\$1,429.99	\$2,859.98
Sliding Tower Shelves	DRA1589	4	\$289.99	\$1,159.96
Telescoping Shelf	DRA1570	4	\$149.99	\$599.96
Caster Base & 4 Casters	DRA1592	2	\$249.99	\$499.98
Rack Mount Powerstrip w/Surge Protect 10 outlet	DRA1162	2	\$119.99	\$239.98
Cat 5 Patch Panel 24 Port T568B (Hubbell)	DPA1644	4	\$199.00	\$796.00
Cable Management Support Bar	DPA1656	4	\$8.99	\$35.96
APC Back UPS Pro 650 PNP	DUP1253	6	\$199.99	\$1,199.94
Allied Telson SNMP rack mount hubs		4	\$300.00	\$1,200.00
Kalpan Fiber Switch	IS Donation	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
CSU/DSU	ANS Donation	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Copper Cabling & Tools Subtotal				\$15,481.67
Training		2	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00
Transcender Novell NetWare (CNE) Test Prep		1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Transcender Microsoft Windows NT (MCSE) Test Prep Software		1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Transcender Cisco (CCIE) Test Prep Software		1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Training and professional development				\$19,500.00
TOTAL			\$3,942.60	\$72,301.67

Networkd Program: CNA, CNE and MCSE

Item	Description	Cost	Quantity	Extension
Servers	Network Servers	\$3,000.00	3	\$9,000.00
PC Workstations	24 per labs plus instructor workstation (includes 2 PCs)	\$1,600.00	52	\$83,200.00
Network Printers		\$1,500.00	2	\$3,000.00
Docking Station	For removable hard drive	\$25.00	52	\$1,300.00
Removable Hard drive	Removable HD 4.3 GB	\$160.00	100	\$16,000.00
Network Drops	2 Rooms	\$80.00	60	\$4,800.00
Network Equipment	2 rooms	\$600.00	2	\$1,200.00
Hardware Total				\$118,500.00
Windows NT 4.0 Server 50 user license	Licenses for Servers	\$390.00	1	\$390.00
Netware 5.0 OS	Licenses for Servers	\$0.00	2	\$0.00
Windows NT 4.0 Workstation OS	Licenses for Workstations	\$39.44	50	\$1,972.00
Windows 95/98	Licenses for Workstations	\$0.00	48	\$0.00
Software				\$2,362.00
Projectors	Ceiling mounted, projects monitor screen	\$4,500.00	1	\$4,500.00
Video switches	To switch video between multiple sources at instructor workstation	\$50.00	2	\$100.00
Presentation equipment				\$4,600.00
Training	Professional development for faculty members	\$7,500.00	2	\$15,000.00
Transcender Novell NetWare (CNE) Test Prep Software		1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Transcender Microsoft Windows NT (MCSE) Test Prep Software		1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Professional development				\$18,000.00
Sub-Total:				\$143,462.00
Contingency		0.0%		\$0.00
Total:				\$143,462.00

EMPLOYER NEEDS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
A PILOT SURVEY FOR WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BY THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(ICARD)
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

JULY 1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Washtenaw Community College has established a Future Jobs Initiative to enable the College to develop courses and programs which will meet current needs and anticipate future trends facing area employers. The College has embarked on a research effort that will provide data relevant to strategic planning for such curriculum development among all educational institutions. The intent of this survey of Washtenaw County employers is to secure data on the information technology skill needs of employees, both in terms of gaps that exist between current needs and existing educational programs, and in terms of identifying how employee needs will be changing in the future.

Methodology

A list of employers which included representation from all SIC code industry clusters which made up at least 5% of the employment in the county was developed. Additional employers were added to the list to insure representation of large employers, educational institutions, and employers from the "high tech" sector.

A mail rather than a telephone survey was used since it permitted gathering much more detailed information from respondents. Prior contact and follow-up calls were made with all

prospective respondents to elicit their cooperation and to insure a high response rate. Thus, despite the length and difficulty of the survey, 53 (62%) of the 86 organizations on the list responded, over twice the typical response rate associated with a mailed survey.

The goal of the survey is not simply to verify that a labor shortage exists in Washtenaw County, as it does nationally, for information technology professionals and others with computer skills. The survey attempts to learn more about the specific skills which are needed and the organizational contexts in which the need is evidenced. This information can then lead to organizational responses based in reality.

The study focused on both IT professionals and IT users. IT professionals are defined as those whose positions are organized around the use or knowledge of computer systems, either as part of an Information Technology or Information Systems Department or in a position which provides IT or computer services to the organization. IT users are those employees in positions which are not defined by the knowledge and use of computers, but depend on the use of computers in the manipulation of data for a substantial element of the job

IT Professionals

- While responding organizations have large numbers of employees within Washtenaw County, the number of employees in information technology is considerably smaller. The sample is somewhat bifurcated--firms either employ very few or very many IT professionals, depending on the nature of the enterprise.
- IT positions require considerable education. On average 55% of positions require a bachelor's degree, but over a third of positions did not require a four-year degree.
- Overwhelmingly, IT employees are hired with on-the-job IT experience (81%). Only 16% of IT employees are hired directly upon completion of education or training.

Current and Anticipated Positions

- The total number of current IT professionals identified by responding organizations is 1,923. IT professionals are most likely to be currently employed as programmers (20%), software engineers (18%), and customer support technicians (13%). Network technicians and network administrators combined total 19%.
- The survey identified 238 currently unfilled IT positions in Washtenaw County. This figure is equal to 12% of identified jobs which are currently filled.
- Survey respondents projected 683 additional jobs for IT professionals in their organizations in the next three years. This represents a 36% increase when compared to the number of IT professional currently employed in the responding organizations. Relative to the other specialists, future projections show an increase in the need for network specialists.

Recruitment

- Nearly three-fourths of respondents say that they have difficulty recruiting skilled IT workers. Almost two-thirds indicated that IT workers generally possess the necessary skills at the time of hiring, but less than half are satisfied with the current skill levels of their IT employees.
- Over one third of respondents said they have trouble retaining IT professionals and 40% indicated that turnover of IT professionals was a problem.
- Almost two thirds of respondents indicated that wages of IT workers are rising faster than for other employees.

- Seventy percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that “our IT workers often work more than forty hours per week.”
- Recruitment of foreign nationals for IT positions is an important strategy for filling positions in some organizations.

Training

- With respect to training, 88% of respondents indicated that their IT employees need ongoing training, yet only 28% of respondents have a comprehensive training plan in place.
- Three quarters noted that providing such training contributes to a stable workforce, yet one third indicated that they often train IT employees only to have them leave for other employment.
- Only thirty percent agreed that IT education/training options within the County are adequate and affordable.
- 53% of respondents have devoted significant resources to IT training over the last three years and 65% expect to devote significant amounts over the next three years.
- Only 23% of the respondents feel that the education system is providing the skilled IT professionals currently needed.

IT Users

- On average 60% of current non-IT jobs require significant use of computers.
- 80% of respondents indicated that their non-IT computer users need ongoing training. Yet under half (43%) regularly assess the skill and training needs of these workers, and just 40% have a comprehensive training plan in place.

- Over half of IT users required additional training to raise computer skills to acceptable levels when they were hired.
- Respondents indicated that they are most likely to meet the training needs of these IT users through on-site training by current employees. The next most common is training using commercial vendors. Respondents are less likely to utilize training provided by public educational institutions.
- The skills identified as being most important for non-IT computer users are the ability to think logically and critically and general problem solving skills, along with the ability to use new software applications.
- Only 42% of employers agree that their hiring and evaluation systems adequately incorporate computer literacy.
- Satisfaction with external training options for IT users in the County seems more positive than that for IT professionals. Knowledge of training options is relatively low.
- Most have committed significant resources to training IT users over the last three years and expect to continue to do so.

IT Professionals

Current Skill Needs

- Respondents with IT professionals were asked about the current and future importance of 41 specific IT skills presented in six categories: operating systems, programming, network principles, information systems, database principles, and computer support.

- Overall the most pressing current skill emphases are to be in the categories of network principles and computer support.

Future Skills Needed

- Respondents were asked to rate the future importance (three years from now) of the same list of 41 skills. Network principles and computer support skills were again seen as important. Information system skills, network principles, and database principles are perceived to be of growing importance.
- Among the sub-categories, the largest future gains in importance were seen for JAVA and NT.

IT Users

Current Skill Needs

- Respondents were also asked about current and future skill needs of non-IT computer users. Twenty-two skills within three categories (computer literacy, applications, and functions) were rated as to their current and perceived future importance three years from now.
- Currently, over two thirds of respondents rated the following skills as being either very or quite important: word processing, spread sheets, keyboarding, computerized accounting, and email.

Future Skill Needs

- Critical skills for IT users in the future appear quite similar to the present, although some shifts within categories are anticipated. Increases are projected in the use of

computers for management functions (accounting, purchasing, inventory control, personnel) and for data communication, integration of applications and use of the Internet.

Key Issues – Opportunities and Challenges

The survey results that are analyzed above provide important data about employer needs in information technology in Washtenaw County. Tremendous opportunities exist for education and training of both IT professionals and IT users. Specific challenges, however, face the educational community, given existing structures and practices.

Entry level hiring – IT professionals

The data from the survey verify that the labor shortage which exists nationally for workers with computer skills is replicated in Washtenaw County. National and local data also show that IT positions tend to require considerable education. This situation creates a great opportunity for colleges and universities. The fact that over 55% of the local positions require at least a four-year college degree presents some specific questions to Washtenaw Community College. Which elements of the four-year curriculum—that is, the IT professional track rather than the IT user track—should the College cover? Is the computer curriculum of the College flexible enough and rigorous enough in terms of the level and type of computer courses being offered? Current offerings and the overall curriculum capabilities of the College should be analyzed in terms of the specific programs and specialties highlighted by the data from the survey.

Entry level hiring – IT users

Similar questions should be addressed in regard to IT users. The survey shows that three fifths (60%) of non-IT jobs require significant use of computers. It is becoming increasingly evident that employees entering the workforce must have computer skills to perform adequately on the job. Are WCC students becoming proficient enough in the basic word processing, database, and spreadsheet programs being used in the business setting at the present time? Almost all academic programs will need to incorporate some level of computer skills into the curriculum. This will require inter-departmental cooperation.

The survey provides specific data for the College to use to compare the match with current offerings and to talk further with employers about ways to tailor courses to meet specific needs and to keep up with emerging trends. The gap which exists in current skill levels suggests that computer training programs in local educational institutions, particularly community colleges, can be key to meeting the demand for better trained entry-level employees.

Training of current employees

One of the strongest findings of the study is that training of current employees is a vital need of computer-related education, for both IT professionals and IT users. 88% of employers reported that their IT professionals need ongoing training, while 80% said that this is true for IT users. Yet neither regular needs assessment nor comprehensive training plans are in place at not companies. This presents a tremendous opportunity for the College, as community colleges historically have been more flexible than four-year colleges and universities in reaching out to embrace the non-traditional formats required by the training venue.

The Challenge

While a great need has been identified, the ability of educational institutions to take maximum advantage of this opportunity will require overcoming some barriers, both external and internal. The evaluation of the education which people are receiving is that it does not adequately prepare them for the demands of their jobs. . Educators must do what they can to change this perception and break down the barrier that currently exists between them and the employer community. Two components are necessary to accomplish this: continuing and increasing flexibility in teaching formats, and even closer ties to the employer community than currently exist.

Existing employees represent a significant training challenge. Although many non-traditional formats have been instituted, the College still works incrementally from a traditional credit and degree structure. For computer training, the line between credit and non-credit courses, and degree and non-degree programs, is less distinct than in most other areas of the curriculum. This is especially true in the context evidenced in this survey, that many of those who need training not only have jobs, but they also have degrees.

One method to bring the need for flexibility directly into the decision-making forums of the College is to forge very close and ongoing links with the employer community. The interactions should always be structured as a two-way learning environment, with perspectives mutually shared. The line between the "work environment" and the "educational environment" must become less distinct than it has traditionally been. The end result should be education and training opportunities that are driven not by existing practices, but by the documented needs of computer users, both individually and organizationally.

Conclusion

The study provides Washtenaw Community College with a tested methodology, baseline information and a stable source of data. A vehicle is now in place for frequent updating and refining, with changing focus and emphasis, for continuing input to the College's needs assessment and planning processes. The intent is to increase the College's organizational responsiveness to the parallel needs of students and employers. Over time, the data collection and analysis model can be expanded to address additional questions, cover new topics, and adapt to changing educational and skill needs.

Contact Information:

Washtenaw Community College
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Contributors

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Computer System Technology Certificate

Computer Systems Technology is an existing certificate program for computer repair. This sequence of courses is the entree (for the non-technical learner) into the computer networking technology programs. This program will be modified to replace the existing CIS125 Introduction to LANs with CNT200 Network Concepts. The table below lists the requirements for this certificate.

Computer Systems Technology	
Course	Description
ELE150	PC Hardware Concepts
CIS121	Beginning UNIX
CIS221	UNIX Tools and Scripts
ELE155	Advanced Computer
ELE216A	Modems Installation and Configuration
ELE225A	Introduction to LANs

Computer Networking Technology Certificate

The student must complete the requirements for the Computer System Technology certificate or possess equivalent experience.

Novell® Track	
Course	Description
CNT200	Network Concepts
CNT210	NetWare® 5 Administration
CNT215	Structured Cable Systems and Documentation
CNT220	Advanced NetWare® 5 Administration
CNT225	Switching and Routing Techniques
Microsoft® Track	
CNT200	Network Concepts
CNT211	Administering Microsoft® Windows NT® 4.0
CNT215	Structured Cable Systems and Documentation
CNT221	Supporting Microsoft® Windows NT® 4.0 Core Technologies
CNT225	Switching and Routing Techniques

G. ANALYSIS OF AFFECTED INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS

This is a collaborative curriculum, developed and maintained by the ELE and CIS departments.

H. ARTICULATIONS

No articulation agreements are currently in place: however, agreements may be developed with local highschools willing to develop networking programs.

I. LICENSURE/ACCREDITATION (IF APPLICABLE)

- Novell Certified NetWare Administrator (CNA)
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)