



## CCNA Curriculum Selection Guidelines

The purpose of document is to help Academies to determine which CCNA curriculum—CCNA Discovery or CCNA Exploration, or both—is best suited for their teaching environment. Please refer to the CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration FAQs, Scope and Sequence documents, PowerPoint presentations, and other documents available on Academy Connection for additional information.

**Table 1.** CCNA Curriculum Selection Chart

Question	CCNA Discovery	CCNA Exploration
What are your students' academic capabilities?	Designed for students with basic PC skills	Designed for students with advanced problem solving and analytical skills
What are your students' goals?	Designed to make IT relevant, encourage students to consider further education in IT, and help students prepare for entry-level IT careers by teaching applied skills midway through the four-course series	Designed for students who want to pursue additional technology or engineering education while preparing for an IT career.
How will your institution deliver the CCNA curriculum?	Can be delivered as an independent, standalone curriculum, or integrated into broader courses of study at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges	Can be part of an integrated curriculum or continuing education program at post secondary institutions such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities
Which curriculum best aligns with your teaching methodology and your students' interests?	Teaches networking based on application. Maps more directly to everyday experiences with networks and covers main networking concepts based on the types of practical network environments students may encounter, from home and small business networking to more complex enterprise and theoretical networking models later in the curriculum; uses easy-to-follow labs; provides general theory; and offers a career-oriented approach to learning networking  The step-by-step labs provide detailed instructions to help students reach the final solution. Students can check their answers after each step.	Teaches networking based on technology concepts (protocols, LANs, WANs)  Designed to allow students to learn skills in a more rigorous, comprehensive, theoretical, and practical way that is reflective of standard college and university-level educational practices; uses language that allows for integration with other engineering concepts; and includes complex and challenging hands-on labs.  Students must derive final lab solutions without detailed information about each step. Lab exercises may require some additional research.
Is the existing CCNA curriculum too difficult for your students in terms of theoretical topics?	Yes, the current CCNA curriculum is too difficult	No, the current CCNA curriculum is just right or not challenging enough.



**Americas Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
170 West Tasman Drive  
San Jose, CA 95134-1706  
USA  
www.cisco.com  
Tel: 408 526-4000  
800 553-NETS (6387)  
Fax: 408 527-0883

**Asia Pacific Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
168 Robinson Road  
#28-01 Capital Tower  
Singapore 068912  
www.cisco.com  
Tel: +65 6317 7777  
Fax: +65 6317 7799

**Europe Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems International BV  
Haarlerbergpark  
Haarlerbergweg 13-19  
1101 CH Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
www-europe.cisco.com  
Tel: +31 0 800 020 0791  
Fax: +31 0 20 357 1100

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