



## MICROSOFT CERTIFICATION FAQ'S

### **What Microsoft Certification training programs does El Centro College offer?**

El Centro is a **MICROSOFT IT ACADEMY** offering courses to help prepare students to take the appropriate Microsoft Certified professional exams for MCSE, MCSA, MCDBA, MCSD, and MCAD.

### **What do these initials stand for and what are the job duties?**

**MCSE** = Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer.

MCSE's plan, implement, and support networks.

**MCSA** = Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator.

MCSA's administer and support networks.

**MCDBA** = Microsoft Certified Database Administrator.

MCDBA's plan, create, and maintain databases and their security

**MCSD** = Microsoft Certified Solution Developer.

MCSD's design and develop custom business solutions; i.e. programmers.

**MCAD** = Microsoft Certified Application Developer.

MCAD's build powerful applications using Microsoft Visual Studio.NET and web services.

### **Does El Centro College also offer a certificate and/or an Associate Degree which includes the Microsoft courses?**

Yes, we offer a certificate programs called Networking Support, Visual Studio Developer, Solution Developer, Application Developer, and SQL Server.

We also offer an associate degree program called Network Administrator and Support with various Microsoft specializations.

## **How long does each Microsoft course last and when do they meet?**

Each evening and weekend course lasts for 8 weeks.  
In addition, a few classes are offered online.

Classes are offered during our Fall, Spring, and Summer sessions.

All classes are offered for credit and concurrent continuing education.

## **How can I get more information about these courses?**

Pick up our Credit Class Schedule for actual times and locations.  
This information is also available at our website

[www.elcentrocollege.edu/cis](http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/cis)

## **How many Microsoft courses are required by Microsoft to prepare for various certifications?**

MCSE requires you to complete 7 courses  
MCSA requires you to complete 4 courses.  
MCDBA requires you to complete 4 courses.  
MCSD requires you to complete 5 courses.  
MCAD requires you to complete 3 courses.

## **How many Microsoft courses are required to complete El Centro's Networking Support, the Visual Studio Developer, the Solution Developer, the Application Developer, the SQL Server Certificates, and the Network Administrator and Support Associate degree?**

The **Networking Support Certificate** requires:

MCSE track requires 6 courses  
MCSA track requires 6 courses  
MCDBA track requires 6 courses  
MCSD track requires 6 courses  
MCAD track requires 5 courses

The **Network Administrator and Support AAS** requires:

A Primary Specialization Track selected from one of the tracks listed below and a Secondary Specialization Track selected from CCNA, CCNP, Convergence, UNIX/LINUX, or System i courses.

MCSE track requires 10 courses

MCSA track requires 10 courses

MCDBA track requires 10 courses

MCSD track requires 10 courses

MCAD track requires 10 courses

In addition, PC Hardware and PC Operating Systems courses are required, plus five general education courses.

The **SQL Server Certificate** requires 7 courses

The **Visual Studio Developer Certificate** requires 7 courses

The **Solution Developer Certificate** requires 8 courses

The **Application Developer Certificate** requires 5 courses

### **Can I take more than one course per 8-week session?**

We STRONGLY recommend that you take only ONE Microsoft class per 8 week session. You will need adequate study and lab time.

### **Are there any prerequisites for these programs?**

For all tracks, a basic understanding of networking essentials, terminology and operating systems is required. If you lack this knowledge, you could take ITSC 1401, Introduction to Computers, BCIS 1405, Business Computer Applications, or COSC 1300 Computer Literacy.

Before attempting the MCSD or MCAD track, you should be familiar with logic structures and have problem solving skills. These skills can be obtained in ITSC 2435 Application Problem Solving.

We also recommend you take Microsoft Access, ITSW 1407 or ITSE 1346, before starting the MCDBA program if you lack database skills.

## **What are the classes like?**

Classes are a combination of lecture and lab. You will have weekly lab assignments. The lab is open seven days a week during the fall and spring semesters. During the summer, the lab is open Sunday through Friday.

## **Who teaches these classes?**

All instructors are Microsoft-certified in the course they are instructing. Several are Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCTs). Most work full-time in the networking industry.

## **How do I sign up?**

Obtain a Credit Class Schedule from our campus or look online at [www.elcentrocollege.edu](http://www.elcentrocollege.edu) for a class schedule, fill out an application form online or complete it and take it to the Admissions office. Admissions is open 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 4:30 p.m. Fridays. The telephone number is 214-860-2311.

Online registration is available for students who (1) have a TSI status of exempt, waived, or complete, (2) are in good standing, (3) have no active blocks on their student records and (4) have a valid email address. To register online, go to [www.dcccd.edu](http://www.dcccd.edu) and choose e-Connect from the "Current Student" menu.

## **What do I need to bring with me when I register?**

Bring your application and proof of residency. This can be a driver's license. If you have renewed your license this year, bring a utility bill sent to you at least one year ago. Also, bring transcripts for coursework completed outside the DCCCD.

## **Will I be required to take assessment tests before registering for Microsoft classes?**

As long as you are taking classes that apply to the **Networking Support, SQL Server, Visual Studio Developer, Solution Developer, or Application Developer Certificates**, a TSI waiver will be provided and you will not have to take assessment tests. You will be required to take the assessment test before

registering for any general education courses required in the AAS degree.

### **How much do the courses cost?**

If you are a Dallas County resident for the past 12 months, each 4 credit hour course will cost \$156.00. Out-of-district tuition is \$288.00 per course. Out-of-State or Out-of-Country tuition is \$460.00 per course. The Board of Trustees may change these costs at any time.

### **Does El Centro College give me the certification after I complete classes?**

No, El Centro will give you a grade for completing each course. Your designated Microsoft certification (e.g. MSCE, MCSA, MCDBA, MCSA, MCAD) will come from Microsoft after you pass the appropriate test at an official testing site. You will receive a list of official testing sites at the end of each course.

### **How much does the certification test cost?**

The cost varies from \$60.00 to \$125.00 per test without a voucher, but prices are subject to change.

### **For More Information visit our Website**

[www.elcentrocollege.edu/cis](http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/cis)

Revised 6-18-07