College and career readiness

The number of job postings in the cloud computing industry is growing so rapidly that there aren't enough qualified workers available to fill the positions. Earn your Microsoft Certification, and be part of the solution.

Get hired

**Five times** as many high-growth/high-salary positions require **experience with Office** than all non-Microsoft software skills combined. (IDC/Microsoft, *Skills Requirements for Tomorrow’s Best Jobs: Helping Educators Provide Students with Skills and Tools They Need*, October 2013)

**Twenty-nine percent** of tomorrow’s high-growth/high-wage positions require Office or Office-related skills. (IDC/Microsoft, *Skills Requirements for Tomorrow’s Best Jobs: Helping Educators Provide Students with Skills and Tools They Need*, October 2013)

**Eighty-six percent** of hiring managers indicate that **IT certifications are a high or medium priority** during the candidate evaluation process. (CompTIA, *Employer Perceptions of IT Training and Certification*, January 2011)

**Eight in ten** HR execs verify certifications among job candidates. (CompTIA, *Employer Perceptions of IT Training and Certification*, January 2011)

**Ninety-one percent** of hiring managers consider certification as part of their hiring criteria. (Microsoft, *Microsoft Certification Program Satisfaction Study*, April 2012)

[Improve your college and career readiness and learn how earning a Microsoft Certification can help you get a job.](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/explore-jobs.aspx)

Get recognized

**Sixty-four percent** of IT hiring managers rate certifications as having **extremely high or high value in validating the skills and expertise** of job candidates. (CompTIA, *Employer Perceptions of IT Training and Certification*, January 2011)

**Certification, training, and experience** are three of the top four **most important characteristics** when selecting a candidate for a cloud-related position. (IDC/Microsoft, *Climate Change: Cloud's Impact on IT Organizations and Staffing*, November 2012)

Discover the Microsoft Certification benefits—and find out how the program has [helped people in their careers](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/certification-success-stories.aspx).

Get ahead

In high-growth industries, entry-level employees who hold a Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA) certification or Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification can **earn up to $16,000 more, annually**, than their peers. (IDC/Microsoft, *Skills Requirements for Tomorrow’s Best Jobs: Helping Educators Provide Students with Skills and Tools They Need*, October 2013)

In a study group of 20 IT professionals who were provided exam vouchers, 18 passed the exam. Five of the 18 have been **recognized as leaders in their respective technical areas**, and most have received a **job promotion** or are working on more interesting projects. ([Garth Jones, *One Simple Thing to Help Your IT Career: Certification*, Windows IT Pro, October 9, 2014](http://windowsitpro.com/configuration-manager/one-simple-thing-help-your-it-career-certification))

In a survey of 700 IT networking professionals, **60 percent said that certification led to a new job**. (Network World and SolarWinds, *IT Networking Study*, October 2011)

**Training and certification** will play essential roles in preparing IT professionals for the **evolving IT org**. (IDC/Microsoft, *Climate Change: Cloud's Impact on IT Organizations and Staffing*, November 2012)

When you pass a Microsoft Certification exam, you become a member of the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) community, with access to all of the benefits provided through the [Microsoft Certification Program](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/program-membership.aspx). You can use your Microsoft account to access your [benefits and exams](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/dashboard.aspx) dashboard and to find lots of ways to keep your skills relevant, applicable, and competitive.

Exams you pass and certifications you earn become part of your official transcript, which you can allow potential employers to access directly. A Microsoft Certification is an industry standard which is recognized worldwide and which can help open doors to potential job opportunities.

In addition to the certification program benefits for job-seekers, there are also benefits for students. The American Council on Education (ACE) has approved college credit for select Microsoft Certifications. When you pass a Microsoft Certification exam, you can apply for US college credit via the [ACE College Credit Recommendation Service](http://www.acenet.edu/credit).