



## **NSITE Cisco Academy Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What type of certification do participants in the NSITE Cisco Academy earn?**

Participants take the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) exam, which covers a broad range of fundamentals for IT careers based on the latest networking technologies, software development skills, and job roles. Participants who become CCNAs have the foundational knowledge to take their IT careers in any direction they wish.

### **What type of education or work experience should participants have?**

A four-year degree with a focus in computer science is preferred, however work in the IT field building mainframes or computers in a lab situation; teaching computer security courses; or having earned IT certifications such as A+, Security +, or Network+ can be substituted for the educational requirement.

### **What type of computer equipment do I need to participate the NSITE Cisco Academy?**

NSITE and Cisco do not provide computers for the program. Participants should have a personal laptop or desktop computer with the Microsoft office software suite that they can access daily. The NSITE Cisco Academy cannot be completed using a public access computer, such as at a public library.

### **How many weeks is the NSITE Cisco Academy? Can I complete the coursework more quickly if I go directly through Cisco?**

The 40-week NSITE Cisco Academy follows the same format and schedule as the program conducted by Cisco – both are 40-week group-based, instructor-led training programs and any deviation from the schedule would need to be arranged with trainer. The NSITE Cisco Academy has been adapted to accommodate the learning styles of people who are blind.

### **What are the qualifications of NSITE Cisco Academy instructors?**

The lead instructor for the NSITE Cisco Academy has a Master of Science degree in cybersecurity and 11 years of professional cybersecurity experience, in addition to four training and administration certificates from Cisco Academy. He serves as an instructor-trainer at the U.S. Navy Center for Information Warfare Training and as a Cisco Academy trainer-manager at Queens College in New York.

**How much does the program cost and when is payment expected? Do participants receive a stipend during training?**

NSITE works with local vocational rehabilitation agencies to cover the cost of the training and timing of payment. Participants in the program do not receive a stipend during training.

**What is the entry-level salary for IT professionals with a CCNA?**

The average entry-level salary for an IT professional with CCNA certification is \$58,945 annually. Please note that salaries are contingent on numerous factors, including geographic location, experience, and education. NSITE cannot guarantee salaries.

**Which companies have agreed to participate in the internship?**

NSITE works with a number of Fortune 1000 companies to arrange appropriate paid internships for participants who complete the program.

**Will internships and/or jobs be in-person or remote?**

As the situation with the coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve, employers will make decisions regarding onsite or remote work in accordance with relevant circumstances.