

# Inver Hills Community College Credit by Exam Process

## Credit Equivalency for I.T. Certification Exams Approved December 2005

### **Purpose**

This process is proposed to provide a consistent, transparent mechanism to recognize the credit equivalency of information technology industry certifications that correspond to credit courses in our catalog.

### **Eligibility**

This process is designed for students who intend to complete a degree or certificate program at Inver Hills. Students must have obtained regular admissions status with a declared degree or certificate intent at the college before a request will be processed.

### **Background**

The proposed process is a hybrid of current CLEP and Credit by Exam policies. In effect, we are adopting standards established by the information technology industry in much the same way we have adopted the standards of CLEP in accepting credit equivalencies for specified scores on the CLEP exams. The validity of adopting I.T. industry standards and exam programs is deemed appropriate because there is a deliberate, ongoing effort to assure that our courses are aligned to these standards. This alignment is a key factor in the perceived quality and attractiveness of the program to both students and prospective employers.

A key difference in the comparison to CLEP testing is the dynamic nature of industry certifications. The pace of change in information technology, and the subsequent change in industry standards and certification exams, makes the administration of this process more akin to the Credit by Exam process. The exam itself is developed, validated, administered and reported by an external authority, while validation of the exam provider, version and score would be administered by a qualified IHCC faculty member to determine the actual equivalency to past or current curricula.

### **Credit Equivalency for I.T. Certification Exams**

Inver Hills Community College will grant credit equivalencies to the information technology courses listed as part of this process and based on certification exam results that meet the following criteria:

1. Exam is administered by Pearson VUE, Thomson/Prometric or a future authorized industry certification testing company. Certification results are confirmed directly from a certifying agent (e.g Cisco, Microsoft, CompTIA); through mail, a secure Website, or other means initiated by the certifying agent. The student is responsible for making arrangements to provide this documentation.
2. The certification exam is based on outcomes and objectives that correspond substantially to the content being taught in our current courses. In cases where our current course content is based on technology that is substantially different from the certification exam taken by the student, for example Windows 2003 compared to the Windows NT version for MCSE courses, credit will NOT be granted. Students may retake current exams to qualify for credit equivalency.
3. In the specific case of the four Cisco CCNA courses, students may earn credit for prior versions of the CCNA curriculum at the pre 2004 value of two credits per course. Certification exam scores taken between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2003 will qualify for the two-credit-per-course equivalency. Exams taken after January 1, 2004 will qualify for the three-credit-per-course equivalency. Exams taken prior to January 1, 2000 will not be accepted due to the substantial revision of curriculum since that time. Students may retake current exams to qualify for credit equivalency.

### **Table of Courses and Equivalent Exams on Back**

## I.T. Certification Exams and Corresponding CNT Courses

Course Titles	Credits	CNT #	Exam or Certification*
PC Hardware and Software (A+ Certification)	4	CNT 2300	CompTIA A+ Certification
Server and Network Operating Systems (Server+ Certification)	4	CNT 2301	CompTIA Server+ Certification
Windows Dominant Operating System	1	CNT 2401	70-270 (Windows 2003)
Windows Emerging Operating System	1	CNT 2402	none available
Managing a Windows Server Environment	2	CNT 2410	70-290 (Windows 2003)
Implementing Windows Network Infrastructure	2	CNT 2420	70-291 (Windows 2003)
Planning a Windows Directory Infrastructure	2	CNT 2430	70-293 (Windows 2003)
Implementing Active Directory Services	2	CNT 2440	70-294 (Windows 2003)
Designing Security for Microsoft Networks	2	CNT 2450	70-298 (Windows 2003)
Managing Microsoft Exchange Server	2	CNT 2460	70-284 (Windows 2003)
Note: For following four CCNA courses, three credits are awarded for exams in 2004 or later; two credits for exams prior to 2004			
Networking Essentials (CCNA 1)	2 or 3	CNT 2510	CompTIA Network + OR Cisco 640-801 OR Cisco 640-821
Introduction to Router Configuration (CCNA 2)	2 or 3	CNT 2520	Cisco 640-801 OR Cisco 640-821
Routers and Switches (CCNA 3)	2 or 3	CNT 2530	Cisco 640-801 OR Cisco 640-811
WAN Technologies (CCNA 4)	2 or 3	CNT 2540	Cisco 640-801 OR Cisco 640-811
Scalable Internetworks (CCNP 1)	3	CNT 2610	Cisco 642-801
Remote Access Networks (CCNP 2)	3	CNT 2620	Cisco 642-811
Multilayered Switched Networks (CCNP 3)	3	CNT 2630	Cisco 642-821
Internetwork Troubleshooting (CCNP 4)	3	CNT 2640	Cisco 642-831
<i>Wireless Networks: Technology and Implementation</i>	3	CNT 2710	Cisco 642-582
<i>Managing Network Security Fundamentals</i>	3	CNT 2810	Cisco 642-501 <b>AND</b> Cisco 642-521
<i>Information Systems Security Fundamentals</i>	3	CNT 2820	CompTIA's Security+ Exam

\*Note: This table is intended as a general guideline for students and does not assure that academic credit will be granted for specific exams. Exams vary in content and structure over time and may not measure the current outcomes and objectives of a course; in such cases, credit cannot be given for current courses.

# Credit Equivalency for I.T. Certification Exams

Document sent to registrar is copied on purple and gold CPWD letterhead

## Verification of certification exam results

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **IHCC student no.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Statement:**

I hereby verify that I personally achieved the exam results listed below and have granted permission to the Inver Hills Community College representative named below to verify the results of my exams by whatever secure means are available. I understand that the actual awarding of credit for these courses is granted by the college registrar and is dependent upon meeting criteria established by the college.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student signature

**Course(s) and exam record information (student completes this section, see table on back)**

Course #	Course Title	Exam Source	Exam Number	Date passed and score	Documentation*
					Original Web Other
					Original Web Other
					Original Web Other
					Original Web Other
					Original Web Other
					Original Web Other

**Documentation Key (each exam must have one of these items attached)**

Original: original record received directly from source in sealed envelope; original attached

Web: results obtained from a secure website, printout attached

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorized Inver Hills Community College signature**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Extension:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature