

General Introduction To Cisco Certification Program

Six Paths and Three Levels

The Cisco Professional Certification Program offers six paths of certifications:

- **Routing and Switching:** This path is for professionals who install and support Cisco technology-based networks in which LAN and WAN routers and switches reside.
- **Design:** This path is aimed at professionals who design Cisco technology-based networks in which LAN and WAN routers and switches reside.
- **Network Security:** This path is directed toward network professionals who design and implement Cisco Secure networks.
- **Service Provider:** This path is aimed at professionals working with infrastructure or access solutions in a Cisco end-to-end environment primarily within the telecommunications arena.
- **Storage Networking:** This path is for professionals who implement storage solutions over extended network infrastructure using multiple transport options.
- **Voice:** This path is directed toward network professionals who install and maintain Voice solutions over IP networks.

Each path has three levels of certifications:

- **Associate:** The first step in Cisco networking begins at the Associate level, which also includes CCENT, an interim step to Associates for those with little job experience. Think of the Associate level as the apprentice or foundation level of networking certification.
- **Professional:** This is the advanced or journeyman level of certification.
- **Expert:** This is CCIE, the highest level of achievement for network professionals, certifying an individual as an expert or master.

Certification Paths	Associate	Professional	Expert
Routing & Switching	CCNA/CCENT	CCNP	CCIE Routing & Switching
Design	CCNA & CCDA	CCDP	None
Network Security	CCNA	CCSP	CCIE Security
Service Provider	CCNA	CCIP	CCIE Service Provider
Storage Networking	CCNA	None	CCIE Storage Networking
Voice	CCNA	CCVP	CCIE Voice

Exams Towards Certification

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The following table lists the exams that candidates must pass to obtain each routing and switching certification.

Certification	Prerequisites	Exam
CCENT	None	640-822 ICND1 Interconnecting Cisco Network Devices Part 1
CCNA	None	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 640-802 CCNA Cisco Certified Network Associate ● 640-822 ICND1 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 1
CCNP	CCNA	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 642-825 ISCW Implementing Secure Converged Wide Area Networks ● 642-845 ONT Optimizing Converged Cisco Networks ● 642-901 BSCI Building Scalable Cisco Internetworks
CCIE Routing and Switching	None	Step 1: CCIE Routing and Switching written exam (#350-001) Step 2: CCIE Routing and Switching lab exam (Configuring a network to given specifications)

The following table lists the exams that candidates must pass to obtain each design certification.

Certification	Prerequisites	Exam
CCNA	None	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 640-802 CCNA Cisco Certified Network Associate ● 640-822 ICND1 Interconnecting Cisco

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Networking Devices Part 1 ● 640-816 ICND2 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 2
CCDA	None	640-863 DESGN Design for Cisco Internetwork Solutions
CCDP	CCNA & CCDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 642-901 BSCI Building Scalable Cisco Internetworks 642-812 BCMSN Building Converged Cisco Multiplayer Switched Networks 642-873 ARCH Designing Cisco Network Service Architecture or 642-871 ARCH ARCH Designing Cisco Network Service Architectures ● 642-892 Composite Building Scalable Cisco Internetworks 642-871 ARCH ARCH Designing

The following table lists the exams that candidates must pass to obtain each security certification.

Certification	Prerequisites	Exam
CCNA	None	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 640-802 CCNA Cisco Certified Network Associate ● 640-822 ICND1 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 1 640-816 ICND2 Interconnecting Cisco Networking
CCSP	CCNA	642-552 SND Securing Cisco Network Devices 642-503 SNRS Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches 642-523 SNPA Securing Networks with PIX and ASA 642-533 IPS Implementing Cisco Intrusion Prevention System or 642-532 IPS 642-513 HIPS Securing Hosts Using Cisco Security Agent or 642-511 CSVPN Cisco Secure Virtual Private Networks or 642-591 CANAC Implementing Cisco NAC Appliance or 642-544
CCIE Security	None	Step 1: CCIE Security written exam (#350-018) Step 2: CCIE Security lab exam (Configuring a network to given specifications)

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The following table lists the exams that candidates must pass to obtain each service provider certification.

Certification	Prerequisites	Exam
CCNA	None	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 640-802 CCNA Cisco Certified Network Associate ● 640-822 ICND1 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 1 640-816 ICND2 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 2
CCIP	CCNA	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 642-611 MPLS Implementing Cisco MPLS 642-901 BSCI Building Scalable Cisco Internetworks or 642-892 Composite 642-642 QOS Quality of Service 642-661 BGP Configuring BGP on Cisco Routers ● 642-901 BSCI Building Scalable Cisco Internetworks or 642-892 Composite 642-642 QOS Quality of Service
CCIE Service Provider	None	Step 1: CCIE Service Provider written exam (#350-029) Step 2: CCIE Service Provider lab exam (Configuring a network to given specifications)

The following table lists the exams that candidates must pass to obtain each storage networking certification.

Certification	Prerequisites	Exam
CCNA	None	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 640-802 CCNA Cisco Certified Network Associate ● 640-822 ICND1 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 1 640-816 ICND2 Interconnecting Cisco Networking
CCIE Storage	None	Step 1: CCIE Storage Networking written exam (#350-040) Step 2: CCIE Storage Networking lab exam (Configuring a network to given specifications)

The following table lists the exams that candidates must pass to obtain each voice

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certification.

Certification	Prerequisites	Exam
CCNA	None	Complete one of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 640-802 CCNA Cisco Certified Network Associate ● 640-822 ICND1 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 1 ● 640-816 ICND2 Interconnecting Cisco Networking Devices Part 2
CCVP	CCNA	642-642 QOS Quality of Service 642-432 CVOICE Cisco Voice Over IP and Cisco Voice over IP Fundamentals (CVF) 642-426 TUC Troubleshooting Cisco Unified Communications Systems 642-444 CIPT 4.1 Cisco IP Telephony for Release 4.0 Part 1 and Part 2 or 642-445 CIPT 5.0 Cisco IP Telephony for Release 5.0 Part 1 and Part 2 642-453 GWGK Gateway Gatekeeper
CCIE Voice	None	Step 1: CCIE Voice written exam (#350-030) Step 2: CCIE Voice lab exam (Configuring a network to given specifications)

Expiring Exams

Exam	Last Day to Test
642-871 ARCH	2/23/08
642-532 IPS	1/16/08
642-511 CSVPN	2/1/08

Recertification

CCENT, CCNA, CCDA, CCNP, CCDP, CCSP, CCVP, and CCIP certifications are valid for three years. All CCIE certifications are valid for two years.

Certification Level	Recertification Options
CCENT, CCNA, CCDA certifications	Complete one of the following recertification options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pass the current certification exam ● Pass a Specialist exam bearing a 642 prefix, or pass a Specialist exam after November 3, 2003 (excluding Sales Specialist exams)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pass any Professional level exam bearing a 642 prefix ● Advancing to the level or recertifying at the Professional level automatically renews all related Associate level certifications ● Pass any current CCIE written exam
CCNP, CCDP, CCIP, CCSP & CCVP certifications	<p>Complete one of the following recertification options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pass any 642 exam that is part of the professional level curriculum after 01/01/06
CCIE certification	Pass any current written exam or a CCIE

Recertification Details

If a CCIE does not complete recertification on or before the certification’s expiration date, the CCIE certification will be suspended for one year. Candidates have one year to recertify their CCIE certification by passing the required written exam. If a candidate does not recertify prior to the one year suspension period, all CCIE certification requirements must be completed again to obtain the certification (pass both the written exam and the lab exam.) Note that subsequent recertification deadlines are always based on your original certification date, not on when you took your last recertification exam.

CCIE certification automatically extends other Cisco Career Certifications, such as CCNP or CCNA.

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