

Cisco NetSpace and Academy Connection Feature Comparison

Last Updated 20 December 2012

This document compares features and functionality in Academy Connection and the new Cisco NetSpace™ learning environment. It also provides links to NetSpace™ tutorials and additional information about NetSpace.

Course Management

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Access to Curriculum	Institutions have access only to curricula they have been approved to offer.	Institutions have access to all curricula and can offer any course for which they have an accredited instructor.	For more information about Cisco Networking Academy® courses, visit the Courses and Certifications page.
Primary/Secondary Instructor	Academies can designate Primary and secondary instructor roles.	There is no designation of primary and secondary instructors. Multiple accredited instructors can be added to a course	From the Teach tab, click the gear icon next to the course you would like to add an instructor to. Click the gear icon in the Instructor(s) section and select Add. Watch the Adding an Instructor tutorial .
Grade Book	There is one grade book for exam scores. Instructors cannot add additional items or change scores.	There are two grade books: primary and secondary. The primary grade book is in the learning environment. It supports the addition of multiple assignments, captures exam scores, and allows instructors to edit scores, including exam scores. A secondary grade book is maintained in the assessment delivery system. Original assessment scores are captured and cannot be edited by instructors.	To access the primary grade book, click the course name from the Teach tab. Click Grades in the left menu. Watch the Using the Grade Book tutorial to learn more. To access the secondary grade book, click the course name from the Teach tab. Click Assignments in the left menu, then select one of the chapter exams. Click Load activity in a new window and then choose Student Performance Summary.

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Student Enrollment Course Prerequisites	Course prerequisite policy is enforced by the system.	No change to the prerequisite policy. However, prerequisites are not enforced by the NetSpace system. Student enrollment in course prerequisites is managed by academies.	Prerequisites for each course can be found in the Scope & Sequence document, which is available in the resources folder of each curriculum.
Re-Enrolling Incomplete Students	Since students can only take a course once in Academy Connection and prerequisite requirements are built into the system, if students are marked as Incomplete in the course grade book, the instructor must undertake a process to re-enroll the incomplete student in that course again.	Incomplete students can simply be re-enrolled in the same course.	From the Teach tab, click the gear icon next to the course you would like to add students to. Click the gear icon in the student section and select your preferred method for adding students. Watch the Enrolling Students tutorial to learn more.
Graduation Requirements	Students must complete the final exam, course feedback form, and skills exams to complete a course.	No change in policy. Students must complete the final exam, course feedback form, and skills exams to complete a course.	For details on completing a student in NetSpace please see Completing a Course in this document.
Course Feedback	<p>Students must submit a course feedback form to complete the course.</p> <p>After at least 3 students have submitted course feedback, the instructor can view the feedback in the grade book.</p>	<p>No change in student feedback policy requirements; however, the policy is not enforced by the system. Instructors must confirm course feedback is submitted before completing students in the grade book.</p> <p>After at least 3 students have submitted course feedback, the instructor can view the feedback in the grade book.</p>	<p>Course feedback is listed as an assignment in the Student Completion section. To activate it, select the assignment, load the activity, and then select either the default or advanced activation.</p> <p>To view course feedback, click Course Feedback under Assignments, load the activity, and then select Course Feedback Results from the menu.</p>

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Completing a Course	Instructor toggles a field in the grade book to change enrollment status to "Pass."	In the grade book field titled Instructor Use Only – Assign Student Pass , the instructor can assign each student a checkmark (complete) or an X (incomplete). This action can also be completed in the SpeedGrader tool by assigning the status of Complete or Incomplete.	<p>From the Teach tab, click the course name, then select Grades from the left menu. In the Instructor Use Only – Assign Student Pass column, click once to create a checkmark (complete) and twice for an X (incomplete).</p> <p>To conclude a class, click Settings > End this Course and Conclude Course on the confirmation page.</p> <p>Watch the Complete a Course and SpeedGrader tutorials for more information.</p>
Curriculum Download	The curricula are available for download.	<p>Instructors are encouraged to access the curricula through NetSpace.</p> <p>For those who cannot access the curricula through NetSpace due to bandwidth or other issues, courses are available for download.</p>	You can download zipped course files from the NetSpace Resources page.
Continuing Access to Curriculum	Students have access to the curriculum for 180 days following the end of a class. Students who register as alumni gain lifetime access to the curriculum.	Students have ongoing access to the curriculum following the closure of a course.	From the NetSpace Learn tab, students can click View Course History to access the curriculum of courses they've completed.

Vouchers and Certificates

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Vouchers Offered	ICND1 ICND2 CCNA Composite IINS (CCNA Security)	No change. ICND1 ICND2 CCNA Composite IINS (CCNA Security)	Visit the Certification Exams and Discount Vouchers page and watch the Vouchers tutorial to learn more.
Voucher Requirements	To qualify for a Cisco® certification exam discount voucher, students must receive at least 75% on the first attempt of a qualifying course final exam and be marked as "Pass" in the grade book.	No change. To qualify for an exam discount voucher, students must receive at least 75% on the first attempt of a qualifying course final exam and be marked as complete (checkmark) in the grade book by their instructor.	Visit the Certification Exams and Discount Vouchers page and watch the Vouchers tutorial to learn more. For more information on marking students as complete, please see Completing a Course in this document.
Notification of Voucher Eligibility	Link appears on user homepage.	User notified by email and link appears on homepage Learn tab.	
Course Completion Certificates and Letters of Merit	Course completion certificates and letters of merit are offered for all courses. All users who complete a NetAcad™ course receive a course completion certificate. Students who complete a course and score at least 75% on the final exam receive a letter of merit. Instructors must score at least 80%.	Course completion certificates and letters of merit are offered for all courses. All users who complete a NetAcad course receive a course completion certificate. All users (students and instructors) who complete a course and score at least 75% on the final exam receive a letter of merit.	To access and print student certificates and letters, from the Teach tab, click the gear icon for the corresponding course. On the course information page, scroll down to the Student(s) section. In the Certificates/Letters column, click Actions to access the certificates and letters. Watch the Certificates and Letters tutorial for more information.
Notification of Course Completion Certificates and Letters of Merit Eligibility	Qualified candidates receive an email with course completion certificates and letters of merit attached.	Qualified candidates are notified by email and can print course completion certificates and letters of merit from their NetSpace profile page.	Students access certificates through their profile by clicking their name in the top right menu and scrolling down to the lower right Certificates and Letters section.

Instructor Training

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Academy Orientation Course	Instructors are required to complete the Academy Orientation course before they can teach any Networking Academy™ classes.	No change. An updated Academy Orientation course is under development.	Additional details about the updated course will be made available when it is released.
Instructor Training	<p>Instructors register online through the Academy Locator tool.</p> <p>Some instructor training courses qualify instructors to teach multiple offerings.</p>	<p>Instructors contact Instructor Training Centers (ITCs) to register for courses.</p> <p>A dedicated training course exists for each offering.</p>	To find an Instructor Training Center (ITC), launch the Academy Locator from the NetSpace homepage. For the institution role, select Instructor Training Center.
Instructor Fast Track Training	Candidates with prior subject matter knowledge and Cisco certifications can enroll in Fast Track courses.	<p>Pre-requisites for enrollment in a Fast Track course have not changed; however, the process has. Instructors should contact an ITC directly to enroll in a Fast Track course.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of a Fast Track course, the instructor must contact the Support Desk for confirmation of their prerequisites. The Support Desk accredits instructors to teach.</p>	For more information about Fast Track training, please see the Cisco Networking Academy Membership Guide or contact an Instructor Training Center.
Instructor Accreditation	Instructors are accredited by a CATC or Regional Academy upon completion of an instructor training class.	<p>Instructors are accredited by an ITC upon completion of an instructor training class.</p> <p>Instructors who complete Fast Track training are accredited by the Networking Academy Support Desk.</p>	This functionality is accessed from the Teach tab for instructor training courses.

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Cisco Certified Academy Instructor (CCAI)	<p>The Cisco CCAI certification is offered for the Cisco CCNA[®], CCNA Security, CCNP[®], and IT Essentials curricula.</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully complete the Academy Orientation course • Successfully complete all training courses including final exams and skills exams • Successfully teach at least one course of the curriculum including the use of online exams • Obtain the appropriate industry certification 	Requirements and process remain the same.	Instructors should contact the Support Desk to apply to become a Cisco Certified Academy Instructor.

Academy Management

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Institution Roles	CATC Regional Academy Local Academy	Academy Support Center (ASC) Instructor Training Center (ITC) Cisco Academy (CA)	
Alumni	Students who complete a course can register to become alumni and receive associated benefits.	After completing a course, students qualify as alumni and are eligible to receive associated benefits.	See Continuing Access to Curriculum in this document.
Minimum Age	Users must be at least 13 years old.	Users must be at least 14 years old. If a user attempts to register with a birthdate that makes them younger than 14, no account will be created.	

Assessments

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Assessment Activation Process	Exam activations are managed at the course level. A batch of assessments with the same open and close dates and times can be activated at the same time. The assessment status for an entire class can be viewed on one page.	Exam activations are managed at the assessment level. There is no batch activation functionality. Assessment status can be viewed at the assessment level. Ongoing improvements to the assessment activation process are planned.	From the Teach tab click the name of the course. Click Assignments in the left menu > select the exam > click Load activity in a new window > select default or advanced activation and complete the process. Watch the following tutorials to learn more: Default Activation Advanced Activation Manage Activation
Activation Profiles	Instructors can create a profile of assessment attributes that can be applied to all future activations.	Not available.	
Activation Window	The maximum activation window default is 1 hour. Instructors can change it to be up to 30 days in most cases.	No change. The maximum activation window default is 1 hour. Instructors can change it to be up to 30 days in most cases.	
Multiple Activations	Instructors can set up multiple activations for the same exam (for the same student or a group of students) as long as the activations don't overlap.	Not available.	
Changing Assessment Scores	Instructors cannot change assessment scores.	Instructors cannot change assessment scores in the assessment delivery system. However, after assessment scores are passed from the secondary grade book to the primary grade book, instructors can update exam scores in the primary grade book.	For more information, see the Grade Book section in this document and watch the Using the Grade Book tutorial.

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Personalized Feedback	After completing an assessment, students receive links to each question they missed, the correct answer, and a list of topics from the course they may want to review. They can also click to view their responses.	After completing an assessment, students receive one page with the questions they missed, their answers, the correct answer, and a list of topics from the course they may want to review.	After completing an assessment, students can click Item Feedback to view personalized feedback. They can access the link through the Assignments menu by selecting the exam, loading the activity, and clicking their score
Student Access to Assessment Questions	After completing an assessment, instructors and students can review all test questions through the Item Information Page in the grade book.	Only an instructor can review all test questions.	Watch the Student Performance Summary tutorial for more information.
Student Access to Assessment History and Grades	All grades are displayed in the course grade book. Students can select a question to see more detailed information.	All grades are displayed in the course grade book. For more detailed information, students can access their assessment history through the Assignments page.	Students can access their course grades by clicking Grades in the left menu of the course environment. Students can also view information about exams they have completed by selecting the name of the exam from the Assignments page and clicking Assessment History .
Re-Enabling Incomplete Activations	Instructors must cycle through multiple activations to determine which instance held the incomplete activation for the student.	Since only one activation is allowed, instructors can easily determine which incomplete activation to re-enable.	Watch the Manage Activation tutorial for more information.
Create or Modify Quizzes	Quizzes are delivered as part of the curriculum and cannot be modified.	Quizzes can be built and modified in the classroom environment and can be exported for use in other courses.	Watch the Advanced Quizzes tutorial for more information.
Notification of Exam Availability	When a student selects Take Assessments , only the assessments that are active for that student will be displayed.	The student sees all assessments for the course and must be notified by the instructor when a specific exam is available.	Students access exams by clicking the exam link on the Assignments page. If the exam has not been activated, students will receive an error message.

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Skills Based Assessment PDF and Source Files	These resources are accessed through the Instructor Class Home page.	These are located in the resource folder for the corresponding curriculum.	

Supplemental Course Materials

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Instructor Lab Manual, Cisco Packet Tracer Manual, and Instructor PowerPoint Slides	These resources are accessed through the Tools page.	These are located in the resource folder for the corresponding curriculum.	
Student Lab Manual, Packet Tracer Manual, and Packet Tracer Activity Source Files	These resources can be accessed through the Instructor and Student Class Home pages and the Tool page	These are located in the course template and resource folder for the corresponding curriculum.	To access materials in the course template, from the course template, from the Teach tab click the course name, then select Files from the left menu.

Other Program Information

Item	Academy Connection	NetSpace	Learn More
Curricula Equipment List, Equipment Ordering Information, NetAcad Maintenance, Remote Equipment Access	These resources are located in the Equipment Information section.	These resources can be accessed through the Equipment Information page.	Access the Equipment Information page through the Program menu.



Americas Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
San Jose, CA

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Cisco Systems (USA) Pte. Ltd.
Singapore

Europe Headquarters
Cisco Systems International BV Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at www.cisco.com/go/offices.

Cisco and the Cisco logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cisco and/or its affiliates in the U.S. and other countries. To view a list of Cisco trademarks, go to this URL: www.cisco.com/go/trademarks. Third party trademarks mentioned are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company. (1110R)