means opportunities

The Value of IT Certifications

In an increasingly competitive marketplace, it's harder than ever for job candidates to impress their employers. Gaining industry-recognized certifications will differentiate yourself in this challenging job market.

It's essential for aspiring IT students, like yourself, to validate your skills and add valuable credentials to your resume.

WHY GET CERTIFIED?

The opportunity for students pursuing an IT career is enormous. There were more than 3.7 million IT job postings in the US during 2019.

Many businesses are struggling with IT hiring due to large skills gaps in the workforce. Employers are disparately seeking skilled IT professionals. Close to one-third of tech support job postings currently list an IT certification in the requirements.

Nearly 70% of IT professionals hold more than one IT certification. If you are going to join today's digital workforce, it makes sense to start acquiring your IT certifications early.

CompTIA IT certification can grant you:

1. A competitive edge in a highly technical job market
2. Heightened career advancement opportunities
3. Increase in salary
4. College credit

"Many of our recruiters require a minimum certification level for the students to be hired. With employers demanding the hands-on skills and certifications, CompTIA's relationship as a partner is invaluable."
STEVE MALLARD, CIT SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

1. A COMPETITIVE EDGE

As a certification holder, you can distinguish yourself from the competition with proof that you have specialized skills. In the hiring and evaluation process, 80% of human resource professionals rate certifications from recognized certifying bodies as valuable or very valuable. Furthermore, 72% of employers report frequently using IT certifications as a requirement for certain jobs.

– The CompTIA A+ is the most popular certification requested in job postings for tech support.

"If you can put certification on your resume, you'll have a competitive advantage over another individual who doesn't have it."
MARK MILTON, DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE SERVICES/ CAREER ACADEMY, GOODWILL INDUSTRIES

2. CAREER ADVANCEMENT

IT certifications make you more competitive and employable. In addition they help verify your skills, paving the way for career advancement.

– IT professionals who are certified before their first position are 50% more likely to get a promotion within one year of first being hired than "never certified" IT professionals.
– CompTIA-certified IT professionals are promoted almost twice as often as noncertified IT professionals.

4. COLLEGE CREDITS

Many schools offer college credit for CompTIA certifications. If so, you can save time and money. Check to see if this applies to your course of study.
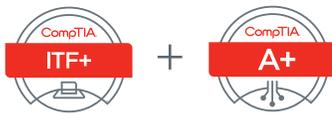
3. SALARY INCREASE

Having an IT credential makes you more valuable, increasing your chances for earning more than non-certified individuals. For example, 32% of CompTIA certified professionals receive a salary/pay increase, promotion or some other type of reward from their employer for achieving certification.

In all regions, the salaries of certified professionals surpass the salaries of non-certified staff.

MEDIAN NATIONAL SALARY FOR ENTRY LEVEL IT JOBS

IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST

CompTIA ITF+ + CompTIA A+

$50,981

IT NETWORKING SPECIALIST

CompTIA A+ + CompTIA Network+ + CompTIA Security+

$75,668

CompTIA

WHY CompTIA

As the global IT industry association, CompTIA builds certifications that show employers a person has the skills to do the job. CompTIA certifications are a trusted global credential. The vendor-neutral certifications allow individuals to work on a wide variety of hardware and software. Built with the knowledge of experts and industry leaders, CompTIA certifications are a great choice when choosing an IT career path.

LEARN MORE

For more information about the value of IT certifications and how to earn them, visit **Certification.CompTIA.org**

Sources
Burning Glass Technologies, *Labor Insights*, 2020
CompTIA, *Workforce and Learning Trends*, 2020
Global Knowledge, *IT Skills and Salary Report*, 2020
IDC, *Impact of Certifications and Training on Career Milestones*, 2019