

Meeting the Learners

In early 2016, the first 8 inmates were selected to enroll in the ITE course. These had already completed an MNCFS basic computer training program, and met the prerequisite knowledge recommended by Cisco. They acquired and practiced new technology skills, along with career skills employers look for, such as communication, collaboration, and problem solving.

Maintaining Prison Security Protocols

Learners take the ITE course in the classroom with the aid of textbooks, videos, and an internal-only prison intranet. Quizzes are given and graded offline, and used by learners as study material for the final exam. Final exams are also taken offline, and later uploaded from an external access point to Networking Academy's learning platform for grading and record keeping.

Pathway to Success

As inmates complete the course and pass the A+ certification exam, they have earned a new career path upon release from prison: entry-level IT jobs. Employers will recognize the value of their certification, and may be more inclined to take a chance on a previous offender who can prove they now have what it takes to be successful in the workplace.

More advanced Cisco IT courses and certification preparation are available at workforce development centers and community colleges throughout the region. Continuing their IT training can lead to additional job opportunities, advancement at work, and even increased salaries, as this field continues to grow exponentially.

More Information

Learn how Cisco Networking Academy's flexible learning program can support your training goals:

www.netacad.com

MNCFS is located at 970 Picket Street North, Bayport, MN 55003-1490 – mncfs.org