Microsoft Technology Associate Certification

Prepares Students in India for
Technology Career Paths

ACROPOLIS
Enlightening wisdom

Acropolis Institute of Technology & Research implements entry-level Microsoft credential to validate fundamental technology knowledge and prepare students for further study.

ACROPOLIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & RESEARCH

Location:
Indore, India

Total School Enrollment:
2,000 students

CHALLENGE

Acropolis Institute of Technology and Research in Indore, India, offers graduate and post-graduate courses in engineering and technology. Established in 2005, the Institute aims to educate and train students to be technically qualified and highly skilled professionals who aid in transforming India into a developed country. With over 2,000 students, Acropolis offers BE, MBA, and MCA programs, and is among the top ranked engineering colleges in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

For the past five years, Acropolis has focused on imparting quality education to students while increasing the Institute's popularity and ranking to attract the best talent in the state. In order to improve graduate job placement and attract better job opportunities, Acropolis aims to differentiate students from their peers. Industry-recognized certifications allow the Institute to offer a value-add to the traditional engineering degree every student obtains.

"Acropolis Institute was established to offer a state-of-the-art, high-quality technical education," said Professor M K Dube, CEO of Acropolis. "By helping our engineering students earn industry certification, we believe we can better assist them in preparing for further academic study and pursuing a career in technology."

SOLUTION

Certiport, the leading provider of test delivery services for the global workforce and academic markets, launched the Microsoft® Technology Associate (MTA) certification in 2010, an innovative entry-level certification designed to validate fundamental technology knowledge and prepare students for more advanced studies and certifications.

Acropolis was nominated as an MTA Select Preview customer and became one of the first institutions in the world to roll out the MTA certification to students. Dr. Durgesh Mishra, Professor & Head of the Computer Science Engineering Department and Dean (R&D) at Acropolis, spearheaded the implementation of the MTA program.

"Due to our focus on preparing students to pursue a career in technology, both the students and faculty at Acropolis had a keen interest in pioneering the MTA certification," said Professor Kamal Sethi, Head of the Department of Information Technology. "The basic IT and development skills included in the MTA exam provided

Microsoft®
Technology Associate

an excellent first step for our students to continue to earn advanced Microsoft technology certifications."

Faculty members were recruited as exam proctors and Acropolis became one of the first Certiport Authorized Testing Centers in India to administer the MTA exams. Students in their final year of engineering studies pursuing a Computer Science or IT degree at Acropolis were the first group chosen to take the MTA exam on Database Administration Fundamentals.

"The MTA Database Administration Fundamentals exam was selected as the first exam, since our students had a good fundamental knowledge of databases," said Mr. Shubham Joshi, faculty member in the Computer Science Engineering Department. "We knew that if the students experienced success on their first MTA exam, they would be motivated to continue and earn additional MTA certifications."

Dr. Mishra built excitement for the exam with a message to students, and faculty and staff educated students on the purpose and structure of the exam. The Acropolis students studied and refreshed their knowledge with MTA Exam Review Kits provided by Microsoft. The first batch of students took the Database Administration Fundamentals exam in August 2010, and the program has been running successfully since then.

RESULTS

More than 90 percent of the Acropolis students who took the Database Administration Fundamentals MTA exam passed on their first attempt, joining the prestigious Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) community. The students will continue to complete additional MTA exams in Software Development, Web Development, Networking and Security. The Institute now plans to expand the program to its other campuses, and also extend it to include third-year engineering students and students pursuing their Masters in Computer Application (MCA).

Dr. Mishra believes making the MTA exam a requirement for all students pursuing a Computer Science degree will ultimately help them in their further studies and in the workforce. "It is imperative to make the MTA exam compulsory for the students," said Dr. Mishra. "They may not realize the value of an industry certification now, but they will benefit from the knowledge they attain and the Microsoft name once they enter the workforce. 'Companies are looking for proof of a strong technology foundation, and MTA certification will certainly demonstrate this to future employers."

Acropolis encourages students to participate in Microsoft's world-renowned technology certification programs - Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS) and Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP). "MTA certification is the preferred path to these advanced certifications, and now our students have a solid foundation for these advanced certifications that are recognized worldwide," said Professor Sethi.

Learn more about MTA at **www.certiport.com/mta**

Opportunities to thrive in IT:

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– **Dr. Durgesh Mishra, Professor & Head of the Computer Science Engineering Department**

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