Future Academy
أكاديمية المستقبل

FUTURE ACADEMY

LOCATION:
Egypt

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT:
1,000 students

SUCCESS METRICS:
» First step in path to further Microsoft certifications
» Trains students with in-demand technology skills
» Industry-recognized certification to compete in global economy

Egypt Higher Institute for Specialized Studies Implements Entry-Level Microsoft Exam to Validate Fundamental Technology Knowledge

Success Story

www.certiport.com/mta

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> **Dalia Hussein Sadek**
> *Manager of Training & Testing Center*
> *Higher Institute for Specialized Studies*

More than 1000 Students Earn Microsoft Technology Associate Certification Each Year

CHALLENGE

The Higher Institute for Specialized Studies (Future Academy) in Cairo, Egypt offers graduate and post-graduate courses in engineering and technology to more than 8,000 students. Established in 1993, the Institute aims to educate and train students to be skilled technology professionals who aid in transforming Egypt into a developed country.

For the past eight years, the Institute has focused on imparting quality education to students while increasing the university's popularity and ranking to attract the best talent in Egypt. In order to attract better job opportunities and improve graduate placement, the Institute began to offer Microsoft courses and became one of the first specialized centers for Microsoft exams in Egypt in 2002.

Microsoft
Technology Associate

Early on, some students majoring in Information Systems and Computer Science took the Microsoft Office Specialist exams as part of their project before graduation. Later, the Institute was one of few private institutions to require Business Administration students to pass the MOS exams during their first year of study to prepare them for the workforce. Eventually, the Institute also began to require Information Systems students to hold a Master MOS 2010 prior to graduation.

The Institute was having great success preparing students for job placement with the MOS exams, but hoped to implement an introductory technology certification to help students prepare for further study early on in their education.

SOLUTION
Certiport, the leading provider of test delivery services for the global workforce and academic markets,

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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.

"We knew the MTA exam would be an excellent first step for our students to continue to earn advanced Microsoft technology certifications," said Dalia Hussein Sadek, Training & Testing Center Manager for the Higher Institute for Specialized Studies.

All of the Institute's Computer Science administrators and professors took

the MTA exams to evaluate their merit. They all agreed the exams would serve as an excellent basis but they needed to ensure students would be aptly prepared to pass the exams. The Institute worked with Certiport to implement preparation materials into their existing courses and received the support they needed to make the MTA exam a success.

Faculty members were recruited as exam proctors and the Institute became one of the first Certiport Authorized Testing Centers in Egypt to administer the MOS 2007, MOS 2010 and MTA exams. Students in their first year in the Computer Science department were the first group chosen to take the MTA exam on Software Development Fundamentals. Students in their second year of Computer Science were chosen to take the MTA exam on Windows Development Fundamentals. Students in their third and final year of Computer Science were chosen to take the MTA exam on Database Administration Fundamentals.

"These MTA exams were selected since our students had a good fundamental knowledge of software development, windows development and databases," said Sadek. "We knew that if the students experienced success on their first MTA exam, they would be motivated to continue and earn additional MTA certifications."

RESULTS
The Institute has certified more than 5,000 students on Microsoft exams since 2004, and now more than 2,000 students have earned the MTA certificate in the first two years.

"MTA certification helps students gain knowledge about specific subjects such as databases and programming languages," said Nabil William, an instructor at Future Academy. "Having an industry-recognized certification ensures they know the working field requirements."

Students are also touting the benefits of the MTA exams as they prepare to enter the workforce. "The MTA exams I have taken at the Academy are preparing me to be a developer and I think they will help me obtain a better job," said El Hassan Ali Hassan, a Future Academy student.

Administrators plan to expand the program rapidly, and also plan to implement Certiport's Internet Computing and Core Certification for business students as an introductory exam for their field.

"We believe that making the MTA exam a requirement for all students pursuing a Computer Science degree and making the MOS exam a requirement for all Information Systems and Accounting and Business Administration students will ultimately help them in their further studies and in the workforce," said Sadek. "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."

ABOUT CERTIPORT
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