



Prepare Your Students for Success with an ICT Literacy Program Designed to Demonstrate Critical Thinking Skills in Technology-enabled Academic and Workforce Environments

WANTED: APPLIED ICT LITERACY SKILLS

In a global economy that is driven by and dependent on an ever-expanding array of digital systems and devices, assessing and demonstrating information and communications technology (ICT) skills should be a primary focus of our nation's post-secondary education and adult training programs.

Not surprisingly, eight of the ten fastest growing occupations in the United States require digital literacy. Employers need workers who not only know how to obtain digital information, but can analyze, evaluate, and apply what they find to solve everyday problems. Individuals who lack these skills have fewer employment opportunities. Furthermore, communities, states, and nations that fail to develop a digitally literate workforce will be far less competitive and economically stable.

In order to prepare students for tomorrow's employment opportunities today, post-secondary institutions of higher learning—including universities, community colleges, adult education, and vocational training programs—must make the assessment, remediation, and validation of applied ICT literacy skills a top priority.

"The solution to low test scores is not lower standards; it's tougher, clearer standards.... I'm calling on our nation's governors and state education chiefs to develop standards and assessments [that measure] 21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking...."

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America,
Address to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 03.10.2009



DIGITAL WORK-READINESS FROM ETS AND CERTIPORT

In response to employers' growing need for digitally literate workers and the corresponding need for educational institutions to prepare students with in-demand, applied ICT skills, Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Certiport—the acknowledged leaders in educational assessment and certification—have developed a new certification program: *iCritical Thinking™ Certification powered by ETS*.

The core of the *iCritical Thinking™* certification program is an outcomes-based examination that can be successfully incorporated into incoming student evaluation and placement, student ICT literacy assessment, and curriculum development and deployment decisions.

iCritical Thinking Certification is designed and suitable for students from grade 10 through college, as well as teachers, employers, the adult workforce, and those seeking employment.

CLOSING ICT SKILLS GAPS

The *iCritical Thinking* certification exam measures the range of cognitive and applied ICT literacy skills aligned with the nationally recognized Association of Colleges and Research Libraries (ACRL) standards and is endorsed by the Global Digital Literacy Council (GDLC).

iCritical Thinking certification exam features real-time, simulated, scenario-based task items designed to measure your students' ability to navigate, critically evaluate, and make sense of the wealth of information available through digital technology so you can make the necessary changes to narrow skill gaps. And it provides informative individual and group reporting.

The exam itself takes about an hour to complete. Content areas reflect real-world academic and workplace scenarios. Students must demonstrate the ability to accomplish every-day tasks by effectively utilizing technology such as:

Web Use	E-mail, Instant Messaging, Bulletin Board Postings, Browser Use, Search Engines
Database Management	Data Searches, File Management
Software	Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Presentations, Graphics

DESIGNING A COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Certiport can work with your administration to meet your professional development assessment and certification needs. When paired with proven digital literacy and desktop computing and publishing programs such as the Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®), Microsoft® Certified Application Specialist, and Adobe® Certified Associate, *iCritical Thinking* Certification becomes part of a 21st-Century professional development solution. And, all Certiport programs provide teachers with valuable, verifiable certification credentials.

The *iCritical Thinking* certification exam provides a clear understanding of how your students incorporate and integrate these technologies while performing the following ICT literacy tasks:

Define	Understand and articulate the scope of an information problem in order to facilitate the electronic search for information.
Access	Collect and/or retrieve information in digital environments. Information sources might include Web pages, databases, etc.
Evaluate	Judge whether information satisfies an information problem by determining authority, bias, timeliness, relevance, and other aspects of materials.
Manage	Organize information to help you or others find it later.
Integrate	Interpret and represent information, using digital tools to synthesize, summarize, compare, and contrast information from multiple sources.
Create	Adapt, apply, design or construct information in digital environments.
Communicate	Disseminate information tailored to a particular audience in an effective digital format.

ONLINE AT A CERTIPORT CENTER NEAR YOU

iCritical Thinking powered by ETS is securely administered through Certiport's network of over 12,000 authorized testing centers. We invite you to learn more about *iCritical Thinking* Certification by calling the Certiport Education Solutions Team today.

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