

# Computer Science & Information Technology Academy 2019-2020

## Frequently Asked Questions

Visit [KDE's CS & IT Academy web page](#) and [kystandards.org](http://kystandards.org) for more information and resources

Updated: 1-17-20


### Does the CS/IT Academy fund exams for AP Computer Science too?

Yes. An agreement with the College Board means students are eligible to register for AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles exams and the fee be invoiced to the CS/IT Academy. Students planning to take either exam should see their school AP Coordinator for more information on this process.

### Is there a minimum number of courses a student needs?

Yes and No. Before a voucher can be issued from the CS/IT academy, students must be a **'concentrator'** according to [KRS 158.645](#) (*essentially meaning the student needs to have completed 2 related career pathway courses prior to the assessment*). A student having less than 2 related career pathway courses but a teacher feels as though they have the knowledge and preparation to certify can certainly pursue that. However, it does mean the CS/IT academy cannot supply the voucher and it would need to be purchased at the school/district level.

### Is there a dedicated funding source for computer science support and teacher professional learning?

Yes. The Kentucky legislature dedicated state-level funding in support of the CS & IT academy to address growth in CS learning. The areas of funding are dedicated for student exam vouchers in addition to teacher K-12 computer science professional learning and teacher industry certifications. See the  [Operating Budget](#) (page 63).

### Will there be professional learning available to assist teachers?

Yes. Annually, sessions for teachers will be scheduled around the state to help address CS growth as well as CS standards "deep-dives" to assist teachers with scaffolding and pacing. Additionally, many computer science partners sponsor professional learning experiences and networks designed for teacher growth. Professional learning opportunities will be announced and publicized so be on the lookout for those sessions.

### **Can teachers use the provided program vouchers for industry certification exams?**

Yes. Teachers are encouraged to be industry certified in the area in which they teach. In addition, having experience with the exam prior to the students leads to a better understanding of the learning expectations.

For exam vouchers supplied by Certiport (*Adobe, Apple, Autodesk, IC3, MTA, Unity*), contact [lori.monson@pearson.com](mailto:lori.monson@pearson.com) to obtain your teacher voucher. Student vouchers are still requested through the CS/IT academy.

For CompTIA exams (*A+ & IT Fundamentals*), the same voucher code for students can be used for a teacher's exam as well. Please be sure to designate in your voucher request that one is intended for teacher certification.

### **How do I know how many exams I will need?**

The CS & IT teacher/coordinator will base the number of exams needed on the number of students in your course who are also in a CS & IT pathway. Some students may take your course as an elective but aren't in your class because of their chosen pathway - these students do not need to take the industry certification exam so they would not be counted in your request of exams.

### **Where can I find which exams match my class?**

These can be found on the KDE website through the OCTE for [valid industry certifications](#). Once you access the page, click on "2019-2010 Valid Industry Certification" on the right side.

### **Can I have GMetrix separate from the exams?**

No, these are bundled together. You will get the GMetrix exams that are associated with the industry certification exams you've requested for your pathway.

### **Can students just use GMetrix to determine if they might be a candidate for an exam, not just because the student is committed to the exam once I use GMetrix?**

No. The GMetrix exams are bundled with the actual industry certification exam and are to be used with the students who will be certifying.

### **Can I make custom GMetrix tests with the GMetrix vouchers provided by the state?**

No. Customized tests are not available with the product provided under the state program. You may purchase a GMetrix Practice Test product with custom tests from Certiport's Territory Manager for Kentucky.

### **What exams have a GMetrix test for it?**

GMetrix is bundled with Adobe, Apple's App Development with Swift, Autodesk, IC3, all MTA and Unity

### **What curriculum should I use?**

The choice of curriculum is up to the individual school and teacher and is not being provided by this funding.

### **Where can I find information about the newer programs like Unity?**

Use [Certiport's site](#) for information about any of their exams by clicking on the "Certifications" tab at the top.

### **I heard Console 8 is retiring September 30, 2019. How will I test students now?**

Instead of the Console 8 downloaded testing engine, Certiport's exams will be administered through a browser-based engine called [Compass](#).

### **What if I need more exams than I requested?**

School-based CS & IT Academy coordinators will receive an email about half-way through the year asking you to check your inventory and judge whether or not you might need a few more exams (This doesn't mean you will always get your full request due to funding but we will certainly attempt to fulfill them to the best of our ability). Your requests can only be filled if they are on the formal request form and NOT by contacting/emailing Certiport or Laura Raganas.

### What if I don't use all the exams I request?

As in years past, if it appears you will not use all of your exams, we may possibly request you to return those so they can be re-assigned to schools who may need a few extra.

### What if I only use GMetrix, can I give back the certification exams (or vice versa)?

No. These are bundled together.

### Can I test students on CompTIA A+ at my school?

All CompTIA A+ certification exam testing is provided by their [global testing partner, Pearson VUE](#). You can find the test center nearest you at [Pearson VUE's Test Center Search](#). Before you request vouchers, it is recommended to determine a testing center that is accessible to you and your students. If the nearest testing center is not feasible, it's easy to join the Pearson VUE® Authorized Test Center network if you meet basic requirements. You'll find an application, technical specifications, and instructions available from the [Test Center home page](#).

#### **Need more information?**

- [FAQ's for potential test centers](#)
- For specific assistance with setting up testing with Pearson VUE, you can contact Vue Channel Sales Manager: Steven Reinke [steve.reinke@pearson.com](mailto:steve.reinke@pearson.com).

**Ready to Apply?** [Begin here](#)

**Already a test center?** [FAQ's for Current Test Centers](#)

### Can I test students on CompTIA IT Fundamentals at my school?

Yes. Exams are administered by an approved 'Anywhere Proctor' on an Internet-connected PC that meets system requirements (*see below for requirements*). Teachers are encouraged to submit an application for the Anywhere Proctored program to help make the exam experience for students as easy as possible by staying at school.

#### **[Anywhere Proctored Program for ITF+](#)**

The CompTIA Anywhere Proctor Test Delivery System offers a simplified approach to the delivery of certain CompTIA exams. ADA delivery continues to be available through Pearson VUE test centers only. Rather than requiring a trip to the nearest test center,

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the Anywhere Proctor program allows candidates to register and take a standard certification exam wherever there is an approved [Anywhere Proctor](#) present and an Internet-connected PC (that meets [system requirements](#)).

Once your application is approved for the Anywhere Proctored program, you will receive specific instructions on how to proctor the exam and what your students will need to do on their end to create an account with Pearson Vue. Also, for additional inquiries regarding the Anywhere Proctored program, please reach out to [proctorhelp@comptia.org](mailto:proctorhelp@comptia.org)