

Credential Quick Start: CompTIA A+

The [CompTIA](#) Suite prepares students to demonstrate proficiency in technological skills, including foundational operating systems, network connectivity, and troubleshooting wired and wireless networks.

[CompTIA A+](#) builds foundational skills in hardware, software, networking, troubleshooting, and security.

Credential Type: **Standalone**

Graduation Pathway Inclusion: Information Technology

Awarding Organization: [CompTIA A+](#)

Assessments and Testing Resources

Test Delivery System Exam details:

- [Core 1](#) (hardware and networking)
- [Core 2](#) (operating systems and security)

Testing Resources:

- [Pearson VUE](#) (Test Administrator)
- [CompTIA Online Learning Materials](#)
- [CompTIA Academy Partner Program](#)
- [Testing Options](#)
- [Testing Policies](#)
- [Become a Pearson VUE Authorized Test Center](#)

Credential Objectives

Objectives

- Install, configure, and maintain hardware components and devices effectively.
- Diagnose and resolve issues with PCs, mobile devices, and software applications.
- Understand networking basics and configure wired/wireless SOHO networks.
- Apply basic cybersecurity methods to mitigate threats and secure systems.
- Install and support multiple operating systems, including Windows, Linux, and macOS.
- Explain virtualization and cloud computing concepts and their applications.
- Follow best practices for safety, environmental impacts, and effective communication.
- Provide customer support using appropriate troubleshooting and communication skills.
- Gain a respected certification that validates your foundation in tech and prepares you for success in your career.

Facilities and Equipment

Core classroom facilities for CompTIA A+ include standard desktop PCs or laptops capable of running [modern web browsers](#), virtual machines, and lab software, preferably in a designated computer lab or classroom setting.

Courses, Instructional Materials, and Delivery Modes

CompTIA hosts its own official courseware, which can be purchased by districts and schools. These courses are entirely browser-based and do not require heavy local desktop installations. Learn more about the material and costs, and find the [package](#) that best suits students' needs.

There are no formal prerequisites for taking the CompTIA A+ certification exams. However, it's recommended that students have [9 to 12 months](#) of hands-on experience in the lab or field to build a strong foundation in the concepts covered in the exams.

Instructor Certification, Licensure, and Experience Requirements

CompTIA A+ certification is not required for instructor licensure; however, it is strongly recommended. Teachers can also receive outside training from agencies such as the [PAST Foundation](#).

Student Supports and Accessibility

Exam vouchers can be purchased through [individual and volume purchasing](#). Exam vouchers are also available through the [CompTIA Academy Partner Program](#). [Testing Accommodations](#)

Related Credential Employment Opportunities and Occupations

- [Computer Support Specialists](#)
Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code: 15-1230
Median Wage (US Bureau of Labor Statistics): \$73,340
- [Computer Network Support Specialists](#)
Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code: 15-1231
Median Wage (US Bureau of Labor Statistics): \$60,340

Ohio Labor Market Snapshot: Computer User Support Specialists account for [578 annual openings](#) in the technology industry cluster statewide, with a median annual wage of \$51,520.

Resources and Contact Information:

- [Industry-Recognized Credentials](#)
- [Ohio Labor Market Information Data](#)
- [Ohio Apprenticeship Programs](#)
- [OhioMeansJobs](#)
- Connect with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce at industrycredentials@education.ohio.gov
- Connect with [CompTIA](#)