

According to a recent article on ServerWatch.com, "95% of the Fortune 500 companies continue to use mainframes, and about 2/3 of all business transactions for U.S. retail banks run on them." Yet many professionals who manage these mainframe computers are retiring. IBM has set a goal to get 20,000 new mainframe literate IT professionals by 2010.

To address the continuing need for mainframe skills, IBM and the Marist Center for Collaborative and On-Demand Computing (CCODC) have jointly developed the On-Demand with Enterprise Systems certificate program. This program consists of a series of online training that will help you increase your knowledge of the System z platform through experienced-based learning. The program is aimed at working professionals and is available through the Marist IDCP (Institute of Data Center Professionals - www.idcp.org/learnzos).

The complete certificate program enables industry professionals to earn three System z certificates from Marist as outlined below. The first two years of the program are the same for all participants. In the third year, participants will choose a specific track of study: application development or systems administration. Scholarships for the program are available on a competitive basis.

In addition to Marist certificates, the first course (Introduction to z/OS and major Subsystems) will prepare students to take the worldwide IBM System z Mastery Test.

Certificate Program

System z Associate Certificate (9/8/08-5/16/09):

This first certificate is a series of 3 modules that introduce the z/OS Operating system and its major features. The modules in the program are:

- Introduction to z/OS and major Subsystems
- System z Networking
- System z Security

System z Professional Certificate (9/8/08-5/16/09):

This certificate program is offered to participants who have successfully completed the System z Associate certificate or have passed a qualifying exam. The Professional Certificate introduces advanced System z topics:

- Advanced Topics in zArchitecture: (including z/OS Assembler Language)
- RAS and Diagnostics (Reliability, Availability, Serviceability, and Diagnostics)
- Emerging Technologies (including Service Oriented Architecture and Linux)

System z Expert Certificate (Planned for September, 2008):

This certificate requires completion of the first two certificates above. The System z Expert certificate then gives participants a choice of two tracks.

Application Development Track:

- Application Development Environment and Deployment on System z, Unix System Services, Eclipse, WDz (WebSphere Development for z/OS)
- J2EE on System z

System Administration Track:

- Operating System, Installation, Configuration (JES, RACF, TSO, SMP/E and Fixes)
- System Measurement and Tuning (WLM configuration, SMF and RMF)

Format

Online, non-credit training modules

Admissions Requirements

Applicants to the On-Demand with Enterprise Systems Certificate program must submit:

- Completed application (application form available at www.idcp.org/learnzos.htm)
- Employer recommendation is encouraged

For experienced system z professionals

The IDCP offers a qualifying exam for those experienced System z users interested in directly entering the Year 2: System z Professional certificate program. Visit the System z website for more details.

Contact Information

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