

Microsoft Elevate America



Introduction: The California/Microsoft Elevate America program is a public-private partnership between the State of California and Microsoft Corporation. The purpose of the program is to provide a no-cost opportunity for individuals to increase their technology skills. This is a national program and the NOVA/CONNECT! One-Stop has been awarded vouchers to be redeemed by individuals to complete Microsoft online courses and Microsoft business certification exams.

Timeline: The distribution of vouchers will take place on a first-come, first-served basis through June 8, 2010, or until all vouchers have been claimed. Individuals who are assigned online learning vouchers during this period must "redeem" their vouchers online before June 8, but have 12 months to complete the online learning courses. Individuals who are assigned certification exam vouchers during the distribution period must complete their exam by June 8, 2010.

Courses and Exams: Individuals will specify the voucher type: Business Worker or Technical Professional. Within each category there are many courses to pick from. A voucher is good for one set of courses, called a "course collection," for a selected Microsoft product. The estimated time to complete a course varies from a few hours to about five hours.

Access Elevate America: To access information about the program, online courses, and to find certification exam sites, go to <http://www.novaworks.org/elevateamerica.html>. Note: All Microsoft training courses require Windows PC and Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher.

- **Business Worker Voucher**

These vouchers are used to complete online courses for Microsoft Windows XP, Office 2003, Office 2007, or Windows Vista online courses. These courses are for individuals who use or will use these Microsoft products with their work. All of the courses are self paced, so individuals do not have to complete a course in one sitting. Upon completion of a course, the individual may download and print a certificate of completion.

- **Microsoft Business Certification Exams**

These vouchers are used by individuals to redeem at locations offering Business Worker Certification exams. (Find a location near you at <http://www.certipoint.com/Portal/Pages/LocatorView.aspx>.) These exams may be prepared for by completing Business Worker courses. Technical Professional Certification exams are not part of this voucher program. A voucher can be used for one Business Certification exam attempt, and if needed, one retake (proctor fees may apply, contact testing sites for details). All vouchers issued to take Business Certification exams must be used before June 8, 2010.

- **Technical Professional Voucher**

Note: Prior IT experience is mandatory for receipt of this voucher.

These vouchers are used to complete online courses for individuals who use or will use Microsoft professional information technology applications, including server administration, web and application programming, and other professional technical courses. This series of online courses is specifically designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to pass Microsoft Technical Certification exams. Each collection of courses is focused on a single Microsoft product, such as Windows Server, SQL Server, SharePoint, or Visual Studio. In this category there are many courses offered and organized by learning area. Upon completion of a course, the individual may download and print a certificate of completion, which may provide eligibility for an individual to pursue Microsoft Exam Certification on their own.

For additional information about Microsoft's Elevate America program, contact NOVA at elevateamerica@novaworks.org.

