

# Microsoft Certification

Employability evidence from around the world.

**A worldwide** skills gap continues to challenge both educators and employers. Especially in middle-skills jobs, the delta between the knowledge and skills possessed by matriculating students and the abilities needed by prospective workplaces remains. In fact, in their 2016-2017 Talent Shortage Survey, Manpower Group reports that “of the more than 42,000 employers surveyed, 40% are experiencing difficulties filling roles; the highest level since 2007.”\*

Research indicates that the skills gap encompasses a wide range of knowledge and abilities. According to a white paper commissioned by Microsoft Corp. and released by IDC, the most requested skills students need for the top 60 high-growth, high-wage occupations that will account for 11.5 million new hires and 28 percent of job growth by 2020 include oral and written communication, detail orientation, and Microsoft Office proficiency. Fortunately, the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification validates this desktop application proficiency and is helping students around the globe as they pursue employment. In 2016 alone, over 1.2 million students between the ages of 13 and 22 – worldwide – validated their proficiency in Microsoft Office through the MOS credential.

In addition to the increasing workforce demand for Microsoft Office skills, organizations such as the World Economic Forum suggest that we are entering a Fourth Industrial Revolution based on the unprecedented and disruptive changes driven by

modern technologies.\* In an attempt to avoid an ever-broadening skills gap in this area, schools that have focused on science, technology, and mathematics (STEM) education are now evolving their curriculum to focus specifically on computer science. In fact, a recent report suggested that in the United States “by 2018, 51 percent of all STEM

**“They saw that I was Microsoft Certified and could either add to, or help improve their company. This led me to my current position at a Fortune 500 company!”**

— Nick DeLaRosa,  
Indiana, United States

jobs are projected to be in CS-related fields”.\*

The Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) and Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) certifications are specifically targeted at students who are interested in computer science, coding, and additional traditional IT careers. In fact, MTA was specifically designed to assist students in exploring academic and career options by validating their fundamental technology knowledge in diverse areas. MTA includes high-demand area exams such as Security Fundamentals, Windows OS Fundamentals, and Introduction to Programming with Block-Based Languages.

With Microsoft certifications, educators and employers have a full pathway approach to closing the skills gap. Students are able to leverage learning and instructional materials, preparatory assessment exams, and industry-recognized Microsoft certifications to ensure future success in today’s technology-driven learning and workforce environments.

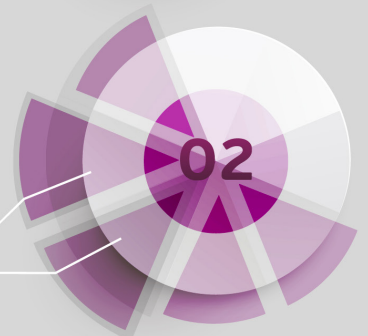
**77%**

More than 50% of today’s jobs require some technology skills, and experts say that percentage will increase to 77% in the next decade.



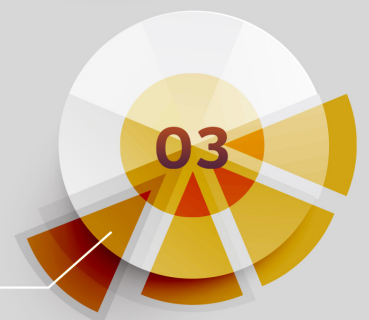
**60%**

Within ten years, 60% of the jobs that will be available do not currently exist.



**50%**

In a national survey done by McKinsey/Manpower, 50% of employers reported that they are unable to fill job openings with qualified workers.



Certification testing plays a crucial role in **helping students acquire the technical skills** required in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century workplace. It certifies a person as being competent in a job or task, usually by completing a program of study and then passing an examination.



**Tania Montellano Flores**

Matamoros, Mexico

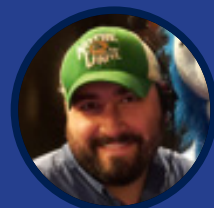
MTA helped me to get great job opportunities. My resume is now more important and that's why I receive calls from huge companies all over the world.

I would absolutely recommend getting MTA certifications because IT professionals need to continually prepare and learn. New technology doesn't wait for us.



*"My MTA certifications helped me to secure a position with the Help Desk and within six months, I was promoted to my present position, where I run the data center for three hospitals.... supporting over 11,000 users, 5,000 computers, and 400 servers. Now, my MTA certifications are preparing me for the MCSA exams."*

**—Christopher Matthews**



**Nick DeLaRosa**

Indiana, United States

For 17 years, I was doing the same thing -television news. Different companies, but the same job over and over. So, I decided to go back to school, and upon earning my MTA certifications, new opportunities have opened up to me. They saw that I was Microsoft Certified and could either add to, or help improve their company. This led me to my current position at a Fortune 500 company! Offering service to those at board room level couldn't be any better!

MTA is a great stepping stone into the IT industry. It adds to your knowledge, yet it's easy enough for computer literate people to quickly pick up. I thought I was computer literate before, but after these classes, I found that I didn't even break the surface.



**Nancy Graham**

New York, United States

I only had a GED and it wasn't enough to obtain employment so I decided to attain the credentials and skills that I needed to succeed in the Administration Assistant field. I received my certifications in Word and Excel 2003, and was able to get a job. I have since received my certifications in Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook 2010 and was given a promotion. I believe it is essential to have these credentials if you want to succeed in the workforce.

*I've always wanted to be on the IT side of business and I was just never where I wanted to be professionally. I started school in January and landed the job I wanted. However, over time my job changed and I felt that I needed to stay focused on what I wanted. As I started getting the certifications, I got many job opportunities. I am now working at a dream job and realize that I am now in control of what I want in a job.*

*With MTA, you change your life and write your own ticket to success, especially with experience. Instead of just accepting a job because you have to – you can accept a job that you want.*

**—Mary A. Hunter-Dogans • Wisconsin, USA**



**Ronald M. Ziedman**

Wisconsin, United States

Gaining these certifications has transformed my life in the span of one year. I started school in September of 2013 and received my first certification a few short months afterwards. I was working at a small manufacturing facility and in less than a year I turned my life around by getting into the IT field and doubling my income. My self-confidence has sky rocketed and I have so much pride in my work and what I do.

MTA certifications are a new beginning for anyone willing to put in the hard work to attain them.



**Regina Kirwa**

Nairobi, Kenya

The MTA certification helped to distinguish me from other recent graduates who had just finished their degree. With MTA, I secured one of the best, high-class, quality internships at the UN where the competition for a job, internship, or even volunteer work is very high. Out of more than 1,000 applicants, I was singled out and selected due to the extra MTA certification. For me, MTA is the ignition key to a long and successful journey in my IT profession.



**Shane Slack**

Utah, United States

I had tried 3 different times to get a promotion at work, but was unsuccessful. After receiving my MTA certifications, I finally got a promotion. Since then, I have received 2 additional promotions.

I was able to earn MTA credentials through my college classes, which offered certification. I think it was a great endeavor and I hope to progress to more advanced certifications in the near future, as well.



### Christopher Matthews

Nevada,  
United States

My MTA certifications helped me to secure a position with the Help Desk and within six months, I was promoted to my present position, where I run the data center for three hospitals in Northern Nevada, supporting over 11,000 users, 5,000 computers, and 400 servers. I maintain server hardware, perform tape backups, configure new systems, and maintain environmental controls and power. Now, my MTA certs are preparing me for the MCSA exams.

I know that MTA certifications prepare you for an IT career & internship, and for the next level of Microsoft Certified Professional certification. For someone considering an IT degree, I recommend MTA certification. It can help you get accepted to a college degree program, it shows that you are sincere about an IT career, and it proves that you're ready for the course of study and the certification exams you'll be faced with in school.



### Cody Davis

Kentucky,  
United States

A local business needed someone specializing in Microsoft Excel and contacted my teacher who then chose me as the perfect student for the job because I had my MOS Excel 2016 certification. I went after school to do calculations for a company that had over 400 business partners nationwide. The calculations would have taken me so much longer than it did if I wasn't able to use the formulas I learned from being MOS Excel certified. Because of my certification, the office staff that I worked for will be asking me for additional help in the future.

My MOS Certification has already helped me in the workforce at a young age. I think that anyone who has the option of receiving MOS certification should do so. Having these certifications will put you above any standard applicant at a job and give you a higher chance of being noticed for employment. That is why I think anyone who gets a MOS certification should go for it.



### Robert Mugisha

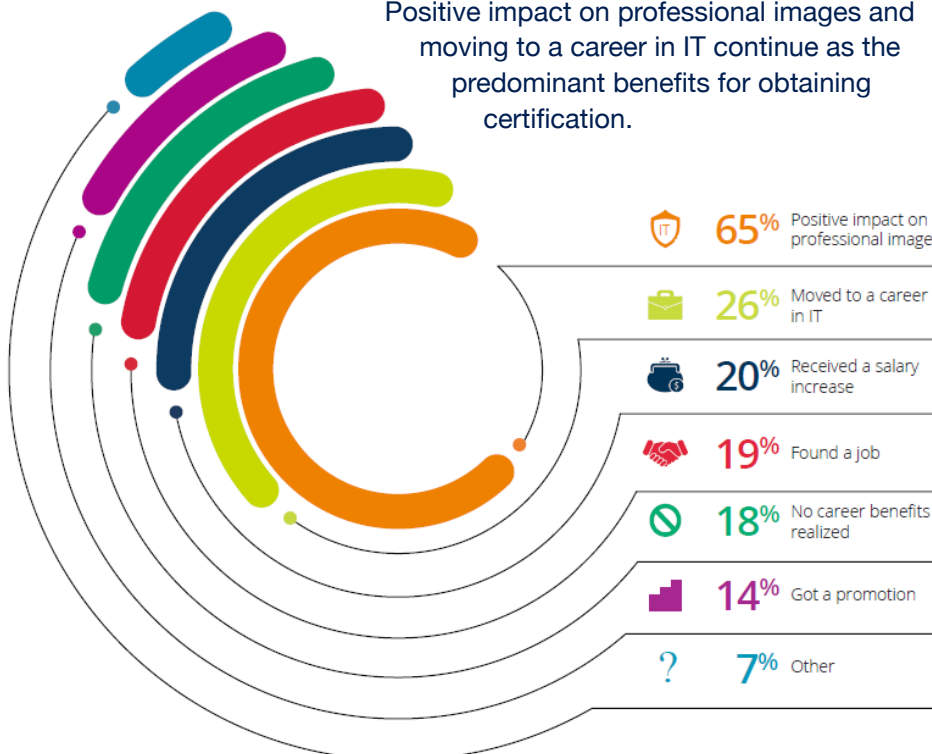
Kigali, Rwanda

MTA helped me in so many ways that I can't express them all. It got me the awesome job I have now, and it has taken me to places that I've never seen or even thought that I would ever visit. Ultimately, I could say a lot more about all the benefits I received thanks to my MTA certification from Microsoft.

I will, of course, recommend the MTA certifications. I know what it has gotten me and I wish that my friends, family and others could receive the same benefits. I will encourage them to pursue Microsoft certifications because it might change their life, as it has changed mine. MTA is one of the best things that has ever happened to me.

# Impact of certification

Positive impact on professional images and moving to a career in IT continue as the predominant benefits for obtaining certification.



Pearson VUE 2016 Value of IT Certification Survey.

*“With MTA, you change your life and write your own ticket to success, especially with experience. Instead of just accepting a job because you have to – you can accept a job that you want.”*

**– Mary A. Hunter-Dogans**

# MTA Success Story

High School alumni, Josh Zheng, who is finishing his sophomore year at OSU in mechanical engineering, was walking through the Kelley Engineering Center when he found a help wanted sign on a pillar. He took down the sign, walked into the Maintenance Manager's office, handed him the sign and said he was the man for the job. After showing the manager his four certifications, he was hired on the spot.

## Steve Fulton

Tigard High School, Oregon



## Jonathan Pass

Tennessee,  
United States

MTA helped me in so many ways that I can't express them all. It got me the awesome job I have now, and it has taken me to places that I've never seen or even thought that I would ever visit. Ultimately, I could say a lot more about all the benefits I received thanks to my MTA certification from Microsoft.

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## Nick O'Donnell

Montana,  
United States

My MOS certifications have helped me get an internship at First Security Bank (a local bank in my hometown) and obtain the position of IT Specialist at Anderson School District. I believe that my certifications help to improve my resume and make me a better qualified candidate for any job or position I apply for. I believe that MOS certifications are a great way to support and improve your list of qualifications, and help you get the job you want.



## Brandon Jacobson

Utah, United States

MOS Certification has opened many doors for me and for my students. I have about 15 students within the last 6 months that have used their MOS Certification to advance in their work, obtain a better paying job, or simply receive a pay raise. These are high school students already applying the earning power of the MOS Certification. MOS Certification has also assisted me in my efforts to achieve my MBA.

I would highly recommend the MOS Certification to anybody that is looking to improve their earning power, efficiency with their work, and/or becoming more confident in their area of employment or schooling. Becoming MOS Certified is valid and valuable. Employers look for it and it increases your ease of formatting documents and presentations. Get Certified!!! Get Certified TODAY!!!



# The skills gap is a worldwide epidemic.

## United States

"As a country, we need to address the question of whether we can afford ... to write off nearly half of our younger-adult population as not having the skills needed to effectively engage as full and active participants in their own future and that of our nation."

—ETS, referenced in *The Atlantic*

## United Kingdom

"We need to work towards a system that gives children and young people the relevant skills, experience and guidance for them to succeed, in turn supporting business and economic growth."

—The CBI, UK

## Middle East

"Not knowing ITC and language makes kids illiterate in the modern world and this is one of the reasons MENA lags behind ... in producing competitive and mobile workforce."

—Marina Apaydin, Professor at the American University of Beirut



## Latin America

"The majority of Latin American children are not receiving a high-quality and relevant education. As a result, too many Latin American youth entering the labor force lack the skills necessary to find dignified work and participate in an increasingly competitive, information-rich and globalized economy."

—Worldfund

## South Africa

"Since many school and university graduates lack the skills needed in a modern economy, learning institutions need to rethink their teaching methods."

—Michael Jordaan, CEO South Africa's First National Bank

## South Korea

"At a time of industrial upgrading and ever-increasing technological sophistication, the knowledge and skills gained in school are often insufficient."

—Prof. Lee Jong-Wha, Korea University