

# Microsoft Certified Master Frequently Asked Questions



## Microsoft® Certified Master: Recognizes, Develops, and Certifies Technical Excellence

### QUESTIONS

**Is the Microsoft Certified Master (MCM) program a “boot camp” where I will learn everything I need in order to receive the certification?**

**How does this differ from the “Ranger” program?**

**Should I become a Microsoft Certified Master or a Microsoft Certified Architect?**

**Do I have to be a Microsoft Certified Professional to participate in the program?**

**I’m a developer.  
Is there a track for me?**

### ANSWERS

Unlike the inexperienced recruits at “boot camps,” a typical MCM candidate has several years of experience designing, deploying, and managing Microsoft server solutions. Only the most experienced and talented IT professionals and leaders who have a proven portfolio of designing, building and troubleshooting complex, strategic IT solutions would qualify to enter the program. Qualified candidates bring real-world experience to the training sessions and compare notes with seasoned experts.

The MCM program is the latest evolution of advanced, specialized Microsoft training, which was first introduced as “Ranger” training. Following our customers’ demand, “Ranger” training evolved and now represents a basis for both the Microsoft Certified Master (MCM) program and the technical tracks in the Microsoft Certified Architect (MCA) program. Due to the high demand for this level of advanced training (and a corresponding certification), Microsoft has created the MCM program to cover only the technical components of the MCA. The MCA (any track) involves both technical expertise and strong business acumen. Microsoft Certified Architects are often consulting firm owners, principals, executive consultants, and chief technology or information officers.

It depends on your job role. An MCM is a top technical person. In addition to the technical expertise required to become an MCM, an MCA is validated on their architectural/business/consulting skills. Not everyone wants to be (or should be) an architect. However, if you do want to pursue a product-centric MCA track, you must first successfully complete the MCM program.

MCM candidates must be Microsoft Certified Professionals. The prerequisite exams and certifications for each MCM program track ensure that candidates are best prepared to succeed in the program.

Microsoft has received extensive customer and partner feedback motivating it to develop an IT professional–focused Master program. We’ve heard support for the idea of a Master Developer certification program, and we do not discount the possibility of considering a developer-focused Master program, but we do not have current plans for such program in the near future. In 2008 the Microsoft Certified Master program is focused on five tracks: Microsoft Exchange Server 2007, Microsoft SQL Server® 2008, Windows Server® 2008: Directory, Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007, and Microsoft Office SharePoint® Server 2007.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## QUESTIONS

**Is the training offered outside of Redmond, WA?**

## ANSWERS

Until June 2009, the training will be offered only in Redmond, USA. Thereafter, Microsoft hopes to deliver the training in select cities worldwide. Please check back at [www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master](http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master) from time to time or subscribe for the MCP News Flash at <https://profile.microsoft.com/RegSysProfileCenter/SubCntDefault.aspx> to receive updates.

**Is the program offered in languages other than English?**

The MCM program is offered in English only. Classroom materials, instruction and discussions are all in English language and a candidate must be able to fluently communicate within this setting.

**Can I bring my own equipment?**

No. Laptops are provided to candidates for use during their training rotation.

**How many candidates are in each training rotation?**

Typical class size per training rotation is 15–24 candidates, which is an optimal size for both learning and networking. Seating is very limited, with just 250 seats total in the Microsoft fiscal year 2009 (July 2008–June 2009), and 500 in fiscal year 2010. As classes fill, potential candidates are put on a waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis. Thus candidates are encouraged to file an application promptly.

**Can I expect my billable rate to rise after I become a Microsoft Certified Master?**

According to feedback Microsoft has received from IT professionals and leaders who have successfully completed the MCM training program, some of the MCM program graduates have achieved return-on-investment numbers such as 90 percent project success rate, 95 percent customer return rate, and 50 percent increase in billable rate. Individual return rates will certainly vary, and Microsoft cannot guarantee that any of your rates will increase by obtaining the MCM credential.

**Learn more about the Microsoft Certified Master program.**  
**Visit [www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master](http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master)**