

# Incorporating MOS Certification in Business Education

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**Abstract:** Business education programs have seen dramatic changes since the 1990s, due to technological advances, legislative initiatives and, in particular, skills needed in the workforce. Business education programs in colleges of business and education nationally and internationally have undergone constant revisions to better meet the needs of business and industry by providing a high-performance workforce. Graduates from colleges and universities will better prepare themselves for workforce mobility and advancement by demonstrating certified skills. MOS certification, one of the global portable credentials, is widely recognized as a value-added tool by educators, learners, employees, and employers.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the perceptions of students and faculty members towards MOS certification, and how to align the business education curriculum to best serve the students regarding their current education and future employment. During 2002-2003 the Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education (PCBEE) created two new This We Believe statements, one of which is This We Believe About Industry Certification (No.72): "Industry certification validates a set of industry-based skills ... clarifies procedures for integrating industry certification into the business education curriculum." Survey questions will focus on both the MOS certification and curriculum alignment, with the purpose of solving problems in the workforce through education. To provide an international perspective, the survey questions will be developed and sent to students and faculty members in three universities in China, Austria and the United States respectively, either in a web-based or as an online form. The sample consists of undergraduate students and faculty in business and education programs.

This cross-national study will be completed by January 1, 2004. The data will be analyzed and findings, conclusions and recommendations will be presented at the OSRA Conference 2004. The potential impact of this study is to modify curriculum in business education at SIUC. This will not only improve the articulation and accountability of courses offered in business education and information technology, but also attract more students into the program where they will find a linkage between education and workforce. The study will provide insights to the ROI for business education.