

Information Technology Certified Computer Professional Certification: Should four-year institutions embrace it?

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Abstract

Four year bachelor degree granting institutions have traditionally left the teaching of IT certifications to private training institutions, community colleges or technical schools. Many educators in four year institutions are not familiar with, nor do they care to become familiar with, IT certifications. However, there are appearing on the market, non-vendor specific professional certifications emphasizing both a business core and an information technology core. The Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP) offers two such certifications, the Certified Computer Professional (CCP) for experienced computer professionals and the Associate Computer Professional (ACP) for entry-level computer professionals. This research will ascertain the perception of the value of the Institute of Certified Computer Professional (ICCP) certifications in industry. It also will ascertain the perception of the value of offering training for this certification in a four year institution.

The data used in this descriptive study was collected through a researcher developed survey. The survey method of data collection was chosen over the interview method due to geographic distribution of the population. The survey was developed over three phases: the pilot phase, the validity phase, and the reliability phase. The breakdown of the individual questions was accomplished during the pilot survey phase. Validity was conducted by the ICCP governance group using a modified Delphi technique. The questionnaire was submitted to the group for comments. Using these comments changes were made and the survey resubmitted. The survey was deemed valid when all group members were in consensus. The reliability phase was conducted using a random sample of the population with reliability based on Guttman's Split-Half, and confirmed by Cronbach's Alpha. The survey was conducted through a Website database driven form with the data going to an Access database. The population consists of 354 information technology professionals in the northeast region of the United States who hold ICCP certifications, from which a random sample will be selected. The database results were exported to an Excel spreadsheet. The raw spreadsheet data was migrated to Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis.

The findings of this research identified the perception of the value of the ICCP's certifications to hiring and advancement in the information technology field. It also identifies the ICCP certification holder's perception of the value of this certification being taught in the following settings: private training facilities, community colleges, technical schools, or four year institutions. Using this information schools and universities can evaluate the worth of offering certification curriculum.