Teaching Enterprise Systems to a New Generation

The IBM Academic Initiative System z™ program provides faculty around the world with a broad range of resources and support to help educate students in enterprise system technologies.

Who can join?
Faculty members at accredited learning institutions all over the globe can join. Membership is available on an individual faculty basis. There is no limit on the number of faculty members from an institution who can join. High school teachers are also welcome to join.

Where to join?
You can apply for membership in the Academic Initiative program by accessing the IBM Academic Initiative Web site at ibm.com/university/academicinitiative. Click on “Join now.” During the signup process (which takes about ten minutes to complete), select “System z” in response to these questions:

- “Please select the IBM software you currently or plan to use in your courses or research”
- “Please specify the IBM servers you currently or plan to use in your courses or research”

What does it cost?
Your only “cost” to join is the time it takes you to fill out the registration forms and get approved. After that, the Academic Initiative offerings are available to you at no charge. This includes the ability to download all the available IBM technology and courseware, remote access to mainframe systems, participation in technical web casts, electronic delivery of our newsletter and much more.

Why join?
Members get access to a wider range of assets, increased placement opportunities for students and eligibility for additional discounts and faculty awards, all while building collaborative partnerships with IBM and other institutions.

What are the goals of the IBM Academic Initiative System z program?
The value the mainframe delivers is legendary and compelling. We need to ensure we are building the next generation of mainframe skills to help more companies and organizations leverage the superior security, availability, scalability and other operational advantages of the mainframe. Our goal is to:

- Encourage and assist schools worldwide to teach Large Systems Thinking, Enterprise Computing and IBM Mainframes.
- Connect clients, business partners, software vendors and the entire mainframe community with schools worldwide.

What educational resources are provided?
- Courses, textbooks, instructor guides, e-Learning modules, hands-on lab exercises and tests
- New enterprise computing courses are continually being developed and existing ones updated in the IBM Academic Initiative online course repository
- Members of the IBM Academic Initiative can teach these courses “as is,” modify them or use them as source material in their own college or university courses
- Assistance with adjuncts, guest lectures and research
- Education for professors (workshops, seminars, Webcasts, podcasts)
- Mastery tests
- Relationships with industry clients
How can faculty and students gain access to a mainframe system and software?

A significant benefit for members of the System z program of the IBM Academic Initiative is the no charge access to an IBM System z mainframe system (The “Knowledge Center” system) running z/OS® for educational and research use, allowing professors and students to explore and learn in a real mainframe environment. After enrolling in the Academic Initiative, faculty members can request the desired number of mainframe IDs by sending an email to zskills@us.ibm.com. A system programmer and an administrator are also available to assist you in your use of the Knowledge Center.

Can students access the IBM Academic Initiative program?

Yes, the Academic Initiative program provides resources for students too. A perfect resource, the Student Portal (ibm.com/education/students) provides students with information regarding job opportunities (including the Student Opportunity System), the latest in research and IBM products, and news about upcoming contests, events, Webcasts, demos, tools and code.

Why teach enterprise systems?

Many businesses rely on IBM’s leading edge mainframe technology that’s unmatched in reliability, availability and flexibility. IBM clients that rely on IBM mainframes are always on the lookout for students who learn concepts and technology in enterprise systems.

A large percent of the current generation of mainframe experts are eligible to retire. The job market in the mainframe community continues to grow, and the demand for students by top companies is growing. The mainframe or enterprise computing community is the largest of its type in the world. See “Careers in Mainframes: an interactive module” at ibm.com/university/systemz for more information.

What schools are already participating in the Academic Initiative, System z program?

Curious to see what schools are teaching Enterprise System Technologies? See: ibm.com/university/systemz/ - click on the “Participating schools” tab and select the geographic area (for example, U.S. and Canada).

How can you connect with IBM clients?

If you are currently teaching courses that contain enterprise systems topics, list your school on the ibm.com/university/systemz/ Web site (see the “Participating schools” tab). You can list your school under the “Participating schools” tab by sending a note to zskills@us.ibm.com. Supply your school name and a contact name and let us know which classes you are teaching. System z clients can view this list as they look to recruit students who have enterprise systems knowledge.

Questions?

If you would like to talk to someone on the Academic Initiative team about the program and getting your school involved, send an e-mail to zskills@us.ibm.com and someone from the team will contact you promptly.

Web sites:

- IBM Academic Initiative (Click “Join now” for membership):
  ibm.com/university/academicinitiative
- IBM Academic Initiative for System z: ibm.com/university/systemz
- IBM System z Entry Level for z/OS System Programmer Mastery Test:
  ibm.com/certify/mastery_tests/azprogp1t_mtraining.shtml

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