Enterprise Systems
IBM System z® Student Offering

IT SKILLS are in demand and the need is growing, especially for students who have mainframe or enterprise computing skills. Consider this:

- All of the top 25 world banks run their business on mainframes;
- 23 of the top 25 global retailers run their mission-critical applications on a mainframe and rely heavily on enterprise systems-skilled employees;
- 9 out of the top 10 global life/health insurance providers process their high-volume transactions on a mainframe; and
- More than 53% of all mainframe experienced personnel in the world today will be eligible for retirement in 2013 – their departure from the workforce will create a significant gap in the number of people with skills in this critical area.

IBM continues to modernize and simplify the mainframe platform, while partnering with customers, business partners and academia from around the world to build more of the skills that industry demands. There has never been a better time to acquire "large systems" skills!

This student offering will get you on your way to learning more about this exciting and in-demand technology. Each step in the learning roadmap includes links that will take you directly to the referenced source. For some of these links, you may need an IBM ID and password to access the information. To register for an IBM ID and password, click here.

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1. Learn more about the System z platform and related careers.

- Download and view the videos on this web page and learn more about a future in large systems and mainframe-related careers (located under 'download and learn' on the right side of the page).

- Watch a short video on System z Career Opportunities

- Download the related Powerpoint presentation in the Student Software Catalog, entitled 'Mainframe.introduction.ppt' and find the answers to questions such as "what are mainframes and who needs them?" "Why a creer in mainframes?"…and more!

- Listen to a podcast interview with Drs. David Douglas and Paul Cronan at the University of Arkansas, on the topic of the Resurgence of the Mainframe

- Discover the top reasons to learn about System z

2. Have a little fun! Check out these humorous YouTube videos from Bob Hoey, Vice President, IBM Worldwide System z Sales.

Click on any of the links below to be taken directly to the video:

- Lesson 1: http://youtube.com/watch?v=MSqXKp-00hM
- Lesson 2: http://youtube.com/watch?v=_rmbPXa6TDU
- Lesson 3: http://youtube.com/watch?v=vQPX4-1uuw0&feature=related
- Lesson 4: http://youtube.com/watch?v=8YUUJ22_nVA&feature=related
- Lesson 5: http://youtube.com/watch?v=tN87j4s1xoE&feature=related
- Lesson 6: http://youtube.com/watch?v=gtBQFP8LPXs

3. Play games!

- The **Open Encounters of z Virtual Kind** skills challenge is a series of games in the online virtual world of Second Life. These games offer a great opportunity to increase your awareness and knowledge of IBM and open source technologies and have fun at the same time. There are several games that are specific to System z. Have fun exploring and learning!

4. Experience a real mainframe environment from your desktop.

You can gain remote access to a real mainframe environment! Explore, learn and perform lab exercises on a mainframe system located at Marist College in New York. Download the related System z Student Labs file from the Student Software Catalog and follow the detailed instructions.

5. Take it to the next step: take the System z Mastery test!

Certifications and mastery tests are an industry-standard of determining technical proficiency and quality, and considered highly desirable by many employers around the world. Two basic steps to get there:

- **First step:** STUDY!

Self-Study Material:

- The System z certification exam is based on the [z/OS Basics Textbook](#)

- Explore the [z/OS Basic Skills Information Center](#)

- Second Step: Ready for the final exam?

- [Test Z01: IBM System z Entry Level for z/OS System Programmer Mastery Test](#)

6. Pass the test? Post your resume!

Increase your chances of finding employment with industry-leading companies by posting your resume on the IBM Student Opportunity System! Students who take and pass the System z Mastery Test are able to take advantage of this added benefit.   Work with you professor to gain access to this database that is accessible by tens of thousands of IBM customers and business partners worldwide!

- [Access the Student Opportunity System](#)

7. Continue the learning.

Continue learning about the IBM System z platform by accessing these additional resources:

Textbooks and Articles:
- [Introduction to the Mainframe: Security](#)
- [Introduction to the Mainframe: Networking](#)
- [Introduction to the Mainframe: Large Scale Commercial Computing](#)
- [z/OS Redbook Domain](#)
- '**F*uter Perfect'*** (related article available for download from Student Software Catalog)
- *'Are you a z/OS Master yet'* (related article available for download from Student Software Catalog)

Additional Links:
- [About the Mainframe](#)
- [IBM System z](#)
- [z/OS Internet Library](#)
- [IBM Terminology and Glossary](#)
- [z/OS IBM Hot Topics Newsletter](#)

8. Join z Communities!

zNextGen: a new, user-driven community aims to connect peers and facilitate shared perspectives, among ermering mainframe professionals.

SHARE: an independent, volunteer-run association providing enterprise technology professionals with user focused [education](#), [professional networking](#), and [industry influence](#). (SHARE offers a

special student discount registration rate).

Facebook: Join the IBM System z on campus Facebook group and stay connected with other students and professionals who share a common interest in mainframe technology.

9. Participate in future "Master the Mainframe" contests and win great prizes!

Watch this space for future versions of this fun and exciting contest. No experience required.

We hope you find the information in this document helpful. There are additional student offerings available through the IBM Academic Initiative Student Software Catalog. Feel free to explore and increase your technology skills portfolio. The IBM Academic Initiative team wishes you every success in your academic career!