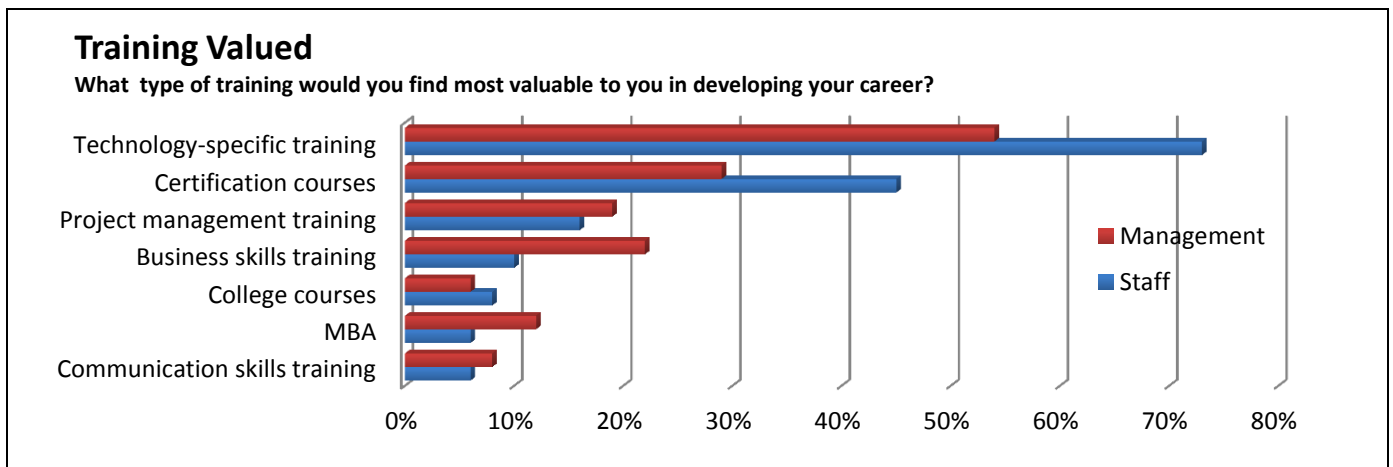


## Why Get an Information Technology Certificate?

CompTia and Microsoft certifications can help give Information Technology students and professionals a competitive edge and open doors to numerous job opportunities. In contrast to theory-based computer training, certificates prove to employers that potential job candidates have hours of on-the-job training and specific skills sets needed to succeed in the workforce.

- **86%** of hiring managers indicate that **IT certifications** are a **high or medium priority** during the candidate evaluation process.
- **91%** of hiring managers consider **certification** as part of their **hiring criteria**.
- **91%** of hiring managers believe IT certifications are valuable in **validating expertise**.
- **60%** of IT networking professionals surveyed said that certification **led to a new job**.
- **Five times** as many high-growth/high-salary positions **require experience with Office** than all non-Microsoft software skills combined.
- Professional certification and license holders earned an average of **15% more** than associate degree and **21% more** than high school degree holders.



Source: InformationWeek 2014 US IT Salary Survey, February 2014

### Sources:

CompTIA, *Employer Perceptions of IT Training and Certification*, January 2011  
Microsoft, *Microsoft Certification Program Satisfaction Study*, April 2012  
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Ewert, Stephanie & Robert Kominski, "Measuring Alternative Educational Credentials: 2012,"  
*US Census Bureau*, January 2014  
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