

# Course: AACC: PC Software

## Cyber Pathways Across Maryland SME Rubric

**Reviewer Name: Alma Scott**

**Date: 9/18/2018**

Course materials can be found through this link:

<http://oli.cmu.edu/learn-with-oli/see-all-oli-courses/>. Scroll down to “PC SOFTWARE: CYBER PATHWAYS ACROSS MARYLAND (CPAM)” and click “Enter Course.” Then “Enter Without An Account.”

This course is offered by Anne Arundel Community College (<http://www.aacc.edu/programs-and-courses/credit-and-degree-seekers/cybersecurity-and-digital-forensics/>) and also prepares students for the CompTIA A+ exam, version 220-901/902. The goal for this review is to validate that the curriculum is complete, current, and relevant to industry cybersecurity needs. Please use the comments sections for each category to explain your overall impressions, whether positive or negative.

<b>COURSE STRUCTURE AND SYLLABUS</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Course description is factually complete and accurate	X		
Course structure includes major lessons and assignments	X		
Prerequisite requirements are included and appropriate	X		
Required facilities and equipment are included and appropriate			X
Required course texts are listed	X		
Appropriate supplementary materials and resources are provided	X		
Course organization and design is clear, coherent, and appropriately structured	X		
Concepts and skills build logically, with appropriate transitions between course sections	X		
Learning outcomes are clearly stated, measurable, and appropriate for the level of the course	X		
Learning outcomes emphasize application of knowledge and skills	X		

### **Comments about the course structure and syllabus:**

Summarize your impressions of the syllabus and course structure including errors, suggestions for revisions, or gaps in the curriculum in regard to industry standards and needs:

I viewed the PC Software Syllabus and course as being well organized. I did note an inconsistency between how the PCS's within the course units are numbered in the Syllabus and in the Outline within the course.

<b>LECTURE MATERIALS: INSTRUCTOR SLIDES OR AUDIO/VIDEO PRESENTATIONS</b>	Y	N	N/A
Content is accurate.	X		
Materials accurately reflect course content.	X		
Materials are presented in a logical order.	X		
Materials reflect the major learning points and objectives for the related lesson.	X		

**Comments about the instructor slides or video presentations:**

Summarize your impressions of the instructor slides including errors or suggestions for revisions:

I believe the course is an excellent balance of text, screenshots, graphics, videos and links offering an interesting collection of learning materials on PC Software. Professor Messer's videos are a well-respected addition to the course.

I did not find materials on the following objectives from Domain 5 Operational Procedures for the 220-902 exam. This Domain is 13% of the exam. The course covers 5.5 on the Troubleshooting Theory quite well. They may be covered in the 220-901 course. They should be covered.

5.1 Given scenarios, use appropriate safety procedures

5.2 Given a scenario with potential environmental impacts, apply the appropriate controls

5.3 Summarize the process of prohibited content/activity, and explain privacy, licensing and policy concepts

5.4 Demonstrate proper communication techniques and professionalism

Check out PCS1/Windows 10 Operating System <9>

Features and Functions table

Rows 4 and 5 - Windows Hello and Microsoft Passport / Xbox one.

Check wording and punctuation

<b>STUDENT ACTIVITIES: LABS/EXERCISES/HOMEWORK</b>			
Activities as a whole:	Y	N	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the achievement of the stated course objectives.</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are comprehensive enough to reinforce course objectives.</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are current.</li> </ul>	X		
Individual activities:	Y	N	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a clearly explained purpose and learning goals.</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the achievement of their stated learning goals.</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include access to all necessary resources.</li> </ul>	X		

**Comments about student activities:**

Please summarize your impressions of the student activities including errors or suggestions for revisions:

The labs and exercises were very effective. The placement and number of labs and exercises served to assess and confirm the student's understanding of the materials covered. The ability to reset the activities and do them over again and the remind me links provide a non-stress, supportive learning environment.

<b>EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS</b>			
Assessments measure the stated learning objectives.	X		
Assessments are consistent with module activities and resources.	X		
Assessments are varied	X		
Assessments are appropriate to the student work being assessed.	X		

**Comments about exams and assessments:**

Please summarize your impressions of the assessments and any suggestions including errors or suggestions for revisions:

The scenarios and the labs were good at preparing students for the labs that will be a part of the 220-902 exam. The labs will be a small part of that exam. How can this course prepare students for the 50+ scenario-based/multiple-choice/knowledge-based questions? The materials are in the course. If students are to go from this course to the exam, they need a pre-test or a practice exam as close to the real thing as possible.

**Overall Summary:**

Based on your expertise and knowledge of the course, please write a summary of your overall impressions, the strengths of the material, and your recommendations for future iterations. Please keep in mind suggestions for revisions or gaps in the curriculum in regard to industry standards and needs. If your course is meant to prepare students for a certification exam, please indicate whether or not you feel the course will do so.

Unit 1 set the stage for an amazing course. I was so impressed with the Strategies for Learning. This section to help students recognize appropriate study strategies was excellent! The learnings from this section will get and keep students on the right track to effectively, efficiently and successfully complete the course. I will borrow this idea. Overall I think the course is excellent. The many different types of information is presented in an interesting, engaging manner. I have noted the missing objectives from Domain 5 and the need for more preparation for the exam. I repeat my certification exam concerns below:

The scenarios and the labs were good at preparing students for the labs that will be a part of the 220-902 exam. The labs will be a small part of that exam. How can this course prepare students for the 50+ scenario-based/multiple-choice/knowledge-based questions? The materials are in the course. If students are to go from this course to the exam, they need a pre-test or a practice exam as close to the real thing as possible.