

Course: CCBC: Digital Forensics 2

Cyber Pathways Across Maryland SME Rubric

Reviewer Name: John Knight

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This course is offered by Community College of Baltimore County (<http://www.ccbcmd.edu/Programs-and-Courses/Schools-and-Academic-Departments/School-of-Technology-Art-and-Design/Network-Technology-and-Cybersecurity.aspx>). 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.

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

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:

This is a course that includes the ACE certification as the final exam. The course is supported with the AccessData ACE Training Manual as the main text reference and **MUST** be a **REQUIRED TEXT**. The syllabus lists a required text that is not referenced in the material. A thorough search was conducted through all the presented lecture and lab material available, three times, but no reference to the required text was found. The FTK Training Manual required for this course is not mentioned on the Sample Syllabus. The

required text must be purchased from AccessData FTK and is adopted by the schools purchase of the product. Additionally the FTK software must be loaded on the lab machine(s) and is licensed by AccessData with an annual recurring subscription. There should be an additional section available to an adopter to reference this requirement as it is fairly expensive to provide such a lab and available computers to support the software.

Each week in the Course Calendar also points to Additional Resources (supplemental) which are not listed in the Syllabus “Additional Resources” or within the week presentation description. An adopting instructor and the student are not aware of the testable reading material until the weekly session is opened.

Ever weekly assignment and lab is based on the FTK Training manual. This manual was not available for this review but similar AccessData FTK Training manuals have been used by this reviewer for training in the classroom as an instructor and as a AccessData student in a commercial setting . AccessData commercial courses are very much the same but compressed to 5-7 days..

The structure is laid out logically based on the FTK Training Manual. The lessons vary in logical and technical requirements. Each transition between sections flow well for the student. Measurable learning outcomes such as quizzes and exams are not provided by the course author.

This is a ACE certification course, as such the learning outcomes are heavily emphasize the needed knowledge and skill level to achieve the ACE rating.

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

Comments about the instructor slides or video presentations:

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

These lecture outlines are laid out logically. Video support is added from the AccessData website that reinforces the material being presented. A list of additional references should be presented in the weekly Course Calendar.

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

Comments about student activities:

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

Hands-on exercises are presented to build and reinforce skills and knowledge. It is suggested that the student oncomplete a "Practice Case" near the end of the course. Since exams and assessments are not provided it is difficult to determine the effectiveness and rigor of this course.

EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS	Y	N	N/A
Assessments measure the stated learning objectives.	Y	N	
Assessments are consistent with module activities and resources.	Y	N	
Assessments are varied	Y	N	
Assessments are appropriate to the student work being assessed.		N	

Comments about exams and assessments:

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

No assessments are provided by the author of this course. Other than a successful passing of the certification or the addition of quizzes and exams could this determination be made.

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.

Digital Forensics is a skill as much as it is an art! This course provides the necessary knowledge and skills presentation to pass the ACE exam. The access to the FTK manual and the FTK software must be addressed. The structure of this course is provided in the FTK Manual presentations and mirrored in the PowerPoint lectures.