

**PROJECT  
525**



# Project 525

A structured and mentored approach to  
become a CCDE in 16 Months

# PROJECT 525



## OVERVIEW

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PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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**NIL**  
LEARNING

## OVERVIEW

Originally developed by NIL Africa in collaboration with Cisco Learn, **Project 525** is built on a proven methodology that guides engineers through the demands of CCNP, CCIE, and CCDE certifications. The program focuses on developing deep technical expertise, structured thinking, and the practical skills required to succeed in real-world network environments.

Delivered by **NIL Learning**, a Cisco Platinum Learning Partner serving **Europe**, the program reflects the original vision and technical depth of Project 525. Participants benefit from expert-led instruction, immersive hands-on labs, and a strong emphasis on building true engineering capability—not just passing the exam.





## WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

### For Individuals

- Experienced Network Architects
- Senior Network Engineers transitioning into architecture roles
- Pre-Sales & Solutions Architects
- Professionals working in multi-domain, multi-vendor environments
- Engineers designing hybrid and large-scale networks



### For Organizations (HR / L&D / IT Leadership)

- Build in-house architecture capability
- Faster digital transformation
- Stronger strategic alignment
- Companies seeking visibility into learning progress and ROI
- Teams reducing reliance on external consultants



## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Project 525 CCDE program follows a structured, milestone-driven journey:

### Foundation & Core Knowledge



- Cisco U. aligned learning (CCDE Core blueprint)
- Business strategy and IT design principles
- Cisco Press and design-focused reading

Phase 1

### Scenario-Based Design & Mentorship



- Real-world design scenarios
  - Multi-domain architecture challenges
  - Mentor-led guidance and feedback
- Enterprise Infrastructure

#### Applied learning across:

- Enterprise Infrastructure
- Service Provider
- Security
- Wireless

Phase 2

### Specialization & Exam Readiness



- Elective focus
- Large-Scale Networks or AI Infrastructure
- Intensive CCDE Bootcamp Scenario-based exam preparation

Phase 3



## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

### MENTORED SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Delegates follow a structured Cisco U. learning path supported by expert mentors.



Self-paced but guided



Modular, flexible learning



Continuous assessment & feedback

### SCENARIO-BASED DESIGN

A core differentiator of CCDE preparation.



Real-world business scenarios



Multi-technology design challenges



Focus on decision-making & trade-offs



Application of business & technical strategy

### CCDE BOOTCAMP

An intensive, expert-led experience designed to ensure exam readiness.

### EXAMS

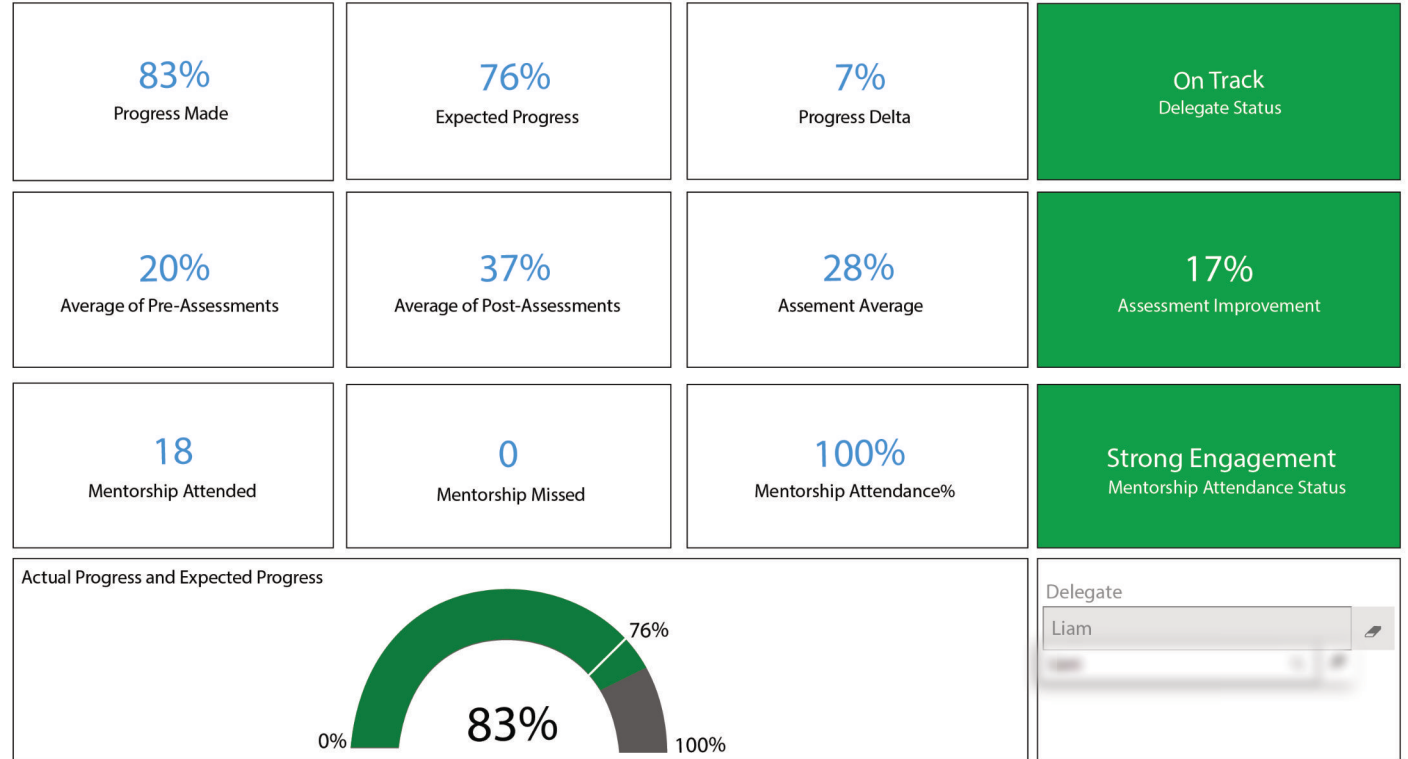
- 3 × Cisco Professional Level Exams
- 1 × CCDE Written exam voucher
- 1 × CCDE Practical exam voucher
- Practical exam rewrite insurance included

### MENTORSHIP

Mentors play a critical role throughout the journey.

- Personalized guidance
- Scenario walkthroughs
- vContinuous performance feedback
- Support via:
  - Virtual sessions
  - Collaboration platforms

## DELEGATE REPORT



Tracks individual progress against milestones

Measures improvement across scenarios

Monitors mentorship engagement



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## COMPANY REPORT

Company: [Dropdown] Cohort: [Dropdown] Cohort Start Date: [Dropdown]

<b>21</b> Active Delegates	<b>5%</b> On Track %	<b>20%</b> Actual Cohort Progress %	<b>20%</b> Progress Gap %	<b>64%</b> Mentorship Attendance %	<b>6%</b> Assessment Improvement %
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Cohort	Active Delegates	Progress Made	Expected Progress	Progress Delta	Assessments Average	Mentorship Attendance	Learning Risk Score
16.1	1	43.24%	28.46%	14.78%	52%	17.24%	
24.1	1	32.24%	50.00%	-17.76%	28%	93.33%	
09.1	1	69.66%	90.00%	-20.34%	68%	85.42%	
16.2	6	6.15%	27.92%	-21.78%		54.40%	
18.1	1	66.19%	92.72%	-26.53%	23%	95.00%	
15.1	1	22.17%	50.38%	-28.22%	33%	48.78%	
22.1	4	15.75%	70.20%	-54.45%	8%	84.13%	
23.1	4	15.52%	73.94%	-58.42%		86.67%	
08.1	2	9.01%	85.38%	-76.37%	6%	48.00%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.69%</b>	<b>58.40%</b>	<b>-38.71%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>63.87%</b>	

Company	Active Delegates	Avg Progress %	Progress Delta %	Learning Risk Score
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.69%</b>	<b>-38.71%</b>	<b>35.53</b>

Provides organizational-level insights

Tracks cohort performance

Identifies risks and support needs



## COORDINATOR/MENTOR REPORT

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Programme:		Cohort: 16																				
Admin Rollout		Content Allocation in Progress (3)																				
Learning Path		Linux																				
Month End Indicator		Month End Jul - 2025 Today																				
Hours per Day	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Date	08-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	01-Aug	04-Aug	05-Aug	06-Aug	07-Aug	08-Aug	11-Aug
Day	Tue	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon
Mentor Days					1					1					1					1		
Platform																						
Section Number		1	2	3	3	3	4	5	5	LAB Lab 05	6	LAB Lab 06	7	LAB Lab 07	8	LAB Lab 08	9	LAB Lab 09	1-9 Midterm Exam (Wed 1-9)	10	LAB Lab 10	11
Content	Orientation	Introduction to Linux	Operating Systems	Working in Linux	Working in Linux	Working in Linux	Open Source Software and Licensing	Command Line Skills	Command Line Skills		Getting Help		Navigating the Filesystem		Managing Files and Directories		Archiving and Compression			Working With Text		Basic Scripting
Delegate Name: Progress		[Progress bars for each section]																				
Mentorships		[Mentorship engagement bars]																				

Tracks mentorship engagement

Maps learning progress across timelines

Highlights intervention opportunities



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## CCDE EXAM PREREQUISITES

There are no formal prerequisites. However, Cisco recommends:

- 7+ years of experience in network design and architecture

Strong knowledge of:

- Routing and Switching
- Security
- Service Provider networks
- Familiarity with enterprise architectures
- Experience in automation and large-scale environments

*\*A CCNP or CCIE is not required, but strong foundational knowledge is essential.*





## RECOMMENDED LEARNING ROADMAP\*

The table below shows the suggested sequence of modules and tasks for the program.

### Project 525: CCDE Learning Roadmap

Step	Description	Self-Study	Instructor led	Mentor Engagement	Timeline
01	Program onboarding and orientation			●	Entry
02	Pre-assessment (baseline evaluation)			●	Entry
03	Cisco U. structured learning	●		●	Months 1-6
04	Business Strategy, Design & Project Management	●		●	Month 7-11
05	CCDE Written exam	●		●	Month 12
06	CCDE Bootcamp	●	●	●	Month 13
07	Scenario-based design practice	●	●	●	Months 14-15
08	Elective specialization	●		●	Months 14-15
09	Final exam preparation	●		●	Months 14-15
10	CCDE Practical exam	●		●	Month 16



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## THE OUTCOME

By the end of the program, delegates will be able to:



Design scalable, multi-domain  
network architectures



Align network architecture  
with business strategy



Evaluate and justify  
architectural decisions



Apply expert-level  
architectural thinking



Lead network design  
initiatives across  
organizations



Translate business  
requirements into future-  
ready architectures



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## CONTACT US

We value your feedback and inquiries. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Our dedicated support team is ready to assist you and provide the information you need. You can reach us through the following channels:

 [info@project525.com](mailto:info@project525.com)

 <https://project525.com/>

We strive to respond to all inquiries promptly and provide the best possible assistance. Your satisfaction is our priority, and we appreciate your engagement with our products/services.

Feel free to reach out to us via our web contact form or email. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

