Oracle Academy Professional Development Courses Review Findings

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The Oracle Academy offers five professional development courses for teachers who wish to become certified to teach corresponding high-school level computer science courses at their institution. The five course series includes *Database Design, Database Programming with SQL, Database Programming with PL/SQL, Java Fundamentals,* and *Java Programming*, and focus primarily on teaching basic programming languages and skills necessary for the design and construction of databases. Despite the highly technical nature of the courses, each course is structured in a way that addresses skills important for real-world implementation and are appropriate for learners with novice to intermediate technology skills. Each course takes about 10-12 weeks (or 90-180 instructional hours) to complete, and are facilitated by Oracle instructors who interact with participants throughout the process. At the end of the series, participants attend a two- or three-day face-to-face event to conduct their final project and complete the certifying exams (participants must meet or exceed a 60% threshold) to become certified to offer the high-school level courses at their institution.

Within each course, participants have access to high-quality, detailed, multi-media instructional materials that are both well-organized and visually appealing. In addition, they are given opportunities to practice and implement newly acquired skills in real world settings while benefitting from expert feedback and instruction. Based on this high level of engagement and instruction, ISTE recommended a level 1 review, also known as a Seal of Alignment for Mastery. This most rigorous review type requires documented evidence showing that a resource helps meet the complex, skills-based indicators of the ISTE Computer Science Educator Standards.

REVIEW METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS

ISTE reviewers conducted a review using a sampling approach to locate and identify lessons focused on particular content and skills directly related to the ISTE Standards for Computer Science Educator indicators. Throughout the courses, reviewers found learning objectives, implementation plans, and embedded tools that align to the standards.

After a careful review of the Oracle Academy online courses, the curriculum and their associated materials, ISTE reviewers determined that there is substantial support for mastery of the ISTE Standards for Computer Science Educators. Indicators for which a Seal of Alignment for Mastery within the ISTE Standards for Computer Science Educators are presented below.

Meets:
   1.a.i., 1.a.ii., 1.a.iv., 1.b.i., 1.b.ii., 1.b.iv., 1.b.v.
Supports:
   1.a.iii., 1.b.iii., 1.b.vi.