

## CHANGES AFOOT AT CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



Juan Mercado, dean of Interdisciplinary Studies at CUNY, at the behest of President Vince Boudreau, has been overseeing and relaunching Continuing and Professional Studies for almost a year. Their mission is to offer students the future of work. They are implementing the career paths that students are clamoring for: healthcare, environmental engineering, tech certifications, even liberal arts that include video editing and graphic illustration for books. “Alumnus” Editor Thea Klapwald chatted with Mercado about the changes. He encouraged alumni to take a look at the courses offered as they are about 90% online. “We offer a variety of classes on different subject areas: [www.cuny.edu/cps](http://www.cuny.edu/cps),” said Mercado. Alumni Association members get a 10 percent discount.

### What are the major changes recently implemented at CPS?

We are increasing the number of classes/training in different areas of the health professions. We are collaborating with Professor Angelo Lampousis in training to Build a Skilled Environmental Workforce in Economically Distressed Communities. In collaboration with Great Courses (<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/>) and QBS (<https://www.qbslearning.com/>), we are creating courses in Big Data and Python as a pilot. We are collaborating with the Rangel Initiative on a pilot training on Food, Water, Energy, and Transportation. We have been reorganizing the English Language Institute; this program has great potential especially now with the reopening of the University to foreign students, who may need to improve their language skills.

### Other significant changes include:

#### CISCO ACADEMY CERTIFICATE

The focus of the CISCO Cyber Ops Certification is securing digital assets and protecting data, and the skills and knowledge gained in Cisco’s Cyber Ops certification and training programs can prepare students to do just that. Organizations everywhere are building robust security teams to address cyber threats and they need qualified professionals they can trust to lead those teams and build the policies and systems that will protect their data. Now is an ideal time for our students to grow their skills, get certified, and join the next generation of security professionals in building a safer data environment. The Cyber

Ops Certification explores cyber trends, threats, staying safe in cyberspace, and protecting personal and company data. It also covers foundational knowledge and essential skills for all cybersecurity domains, including information security, systems security, network security, ethics and laws, and defense and mitigation techniques used to protect businesses.

#### CCNA NETWORKING CERTIFICATION

The Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification is one of Cisco’s most sought-after entry-level IT certifications. The CCNA exam tests the knowledge and skills that a network professional would need to possess to install, configure, and troubleshoot medium-sized networks. CCNA is a technical certification that Cisco offers for early-career networking professionals. It covers the following topics: network fundamentals, network access, Internet Protocol (IP) connectivity, IP services, security fundamentals, and automation and programmability. This course helps candidates prepare for this exam.

#### GOOGLE: IT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

The Google IT Support Certificate is a hands-on, online program designed to prepare beginner learners for entry-level jobs in IT support upon completion of the certificate. The program was developed by Google and covers the fundamentals of IT support, including troubleshooting, customer service, networking, operating systems, system administration, and

security. Classes will be held online via Google Classroom. Students will interact with a Google certified instructor as they navigate through the course modules and sections. Students will receive a google approved City College certificate upon successful completion of the program.

### **CREDENTIAL ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR/CASAC (PSYCHOLOGY DEPT, PROFESSOR ROBERT MELARA)**

The City College of New York's CASAC program is an OASAS-certified education training program: OASAS has approved ten courses as meeting the NY State education requirements for the addiction counselor-trainee credential. The program will satisfy the academic component for the New York State License in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling. It focuses on the psychopharmacological and physiological aspects of drugs, signs, symptoms and stages of alcoholism, individual and group counseling skills, the ethics of confidentiality, family treatment and multicultural issues. Also allowing students to be prepared for a career in substance abuse counseling or enhance their skills as social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist, rehabilitation counselor, mental health counselor, substance abuse counselor, marriage and family therapist, or school counselor.

### **COMMUNITY SCIENTIST INSTITUTE (PROFESSOR KAREN HUBBARD)**

This six-week course delivered through the Continuing Education Program at CCNY is designed for individuals who are interested in developing community-relevant research. The course is specifically designed to engage community members in addressing the cancer burden in New York City. Cancer is the leading cause of premature death before the age of 65. As the onset and diagnosis of cancer continues to increase, we need more voices involved to develop new ways to reduce the cancer burden. Individuals are expected to attend in-person sessions on Saturdays and review the course material online for each module prior to the next class.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING COURSES (PROFESSOR JOHN FILOS)**

This program will be administered by CCNY's School of Continuing Studies and delivered in a virtual format by experts in environmental

engineering. The program will focus on the technologies and environmental challenges facing DEP and DEC, and course content will be developed such that it is approachable for the non-expert while useful for the experienced practitioner. The program is divided into four specialization tracks with an introductory core course, followed by a progression through two additional courses. Each course will consist of 15 weekly one-hour virtual meetings. The program began in September 2022 with the delivery of three courses: Activated Sludge Process, Measurement and Analysis at Water Resource Recovery Facilities, and Water Resource Recovery

### **PILLARS - HOME HEALTH AIDE AND GOOGLE IT COHORT**

The Home Health Aide program will be administered by CCNY's School of Continuing Studies and The Pillars organization. This approved NYSED training will take place via Zoom for three weeks (M-TH 10am-4pm) and a 16-hour in-person lab that takes place after the Zoom classes. Students will be able to help clients with daily personal tasks at home, manage the client's schedule and doctors' appointments among other tasks, follow the client's care plan and report on progress. The successful completion of the program leads to certification.

### **Are any of the changes a result of the Pandemic?**

Offering all classes online. It has benefited our classes as most (not all) run at full capacity or very close to the maximum enrollment. Students are using the Zoom help-desk to speak to staff members. Some of the classes have students enrolled from other states which we didn't have before.

### **Who are the new faces at the CPS and what do they bring to the program?**

I have been working with a fantastic group of people, very committed to the goals of CPS. We are in the process of hiring two new people. One of these positions will be an Associate Director of CPS and his/her role will be to run the daily operation as well to bring new ideas on programming, grant proposals, and work with the College Academic community in implementing new programs. The other one will be the Business Coordinator.