Microsoft Imagine Academy Program Update
July 3, 2018

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are provided to answer Customer questions about this important program change effective October 1st, 2018.

What is changing on October 1st?

Effective October 1st, 2018, all online learning on MSIA is getting a refresh with new content and a new experience that creates a more cohesive learning environment. To make way for these changes we will be modifying how we resource online learning content and how it is accessed by our member educators and students.

MSIA’s online learning management platform and its related Admin and Student dashboards will be retired, so students and educators will no longer have access to courses currently hosted on MSIA’s online learning platform. Any online learning courses not fully completed by students before October 1, 2018 will no longer be accessible. Students should complete their courses and download their transcript before the October 1 deadline. However, you will still have access to online learning and new learning content delivered through the MSIA Member Site.

How will I find online learning courses for my students after October 1st?

Beginning October 1st, 2018, Educators and Students will be able to access online learning courses through a more cohesive experience that features Microsoft OneNote. To enable easy reference, educators and administrators will have access to the specific MSIA online learning catalog available through the Member Site, with course content that supports MSIA’s four learning paths – Computer Science, Data Science, IT Infrastructure and Productivity – and maps to relevant industry certifications.

In fact, many of MSIA’s most popular courses in the learning paths will include a new instructor and student content delivery experience with curriculum packaged in a comprehensive Educator’s Course OneNote, including the prescribed e-learning course(s) – everything all in one place.

Will users be required to log-in with a ‘Work or school account’ or ‘personal account’ in order to access online learning courses after October 1st?

No. Educators will no longer have to enable students’ access to online learning via a ‘Work or school account’ or ‘personal account’ to log-in to a platform.

Are any of the MSIA benefits being eliminated?

No. The benefits included in your MSIA program membership remain the same, including but not limited to access to a full suite of instructional resources such as Microsoft Official Academic Curriculum (MOAC), lesson plans, classroom set-up guidance, online learning, review and study guides, learning
paths, educator development resources, faculty/staff certification exam vouchers, and marketing resources.

Is there still going to be a MSIA Member Site?

Yes. The MSIA Member Site, which is the gated site accessible only by MSIA members, is not changing. The Member Site is where MSIA program administrators and educators access MSIA’s program benefits, curriculum and resources.

How will this change impact learners engaged in online learning on MSIA’s current LMS?

Beginning October 1st, students will no longer have access to courses currently hosted on MSIA’s existing online learning platform and going forward will need to access their content via our new MSIA experience. Therefore, any online learning courses not fully completed by that time will no longer be accessible and any progress will be lost. Students should complete their courses and download their transcript before October 1st, 2018 and move over to the course as hosted on the new platform.

As a teacher or administrator, will I still have access to MSIA’s online learning Admin portal?

No. MSIA’s online learning Admin portal used by educators and administrators, and the learner portal used by students will be retired along with the platform on October 1st, 2018.

As a teacher, how can I find and assign online learning courses to my students?

You can first identify appropriate supplemental online learning for your course(s) in a companion OneNote online learning catalog. This OneNote will be accessible and downloaded from one of MSIA’s learning paths or through MSIA’s curriculum downloads resource finder both found on the Member Site. Then, the simplest method for assigning online learning to your students will be to provide the link to them directly. As an alternative, you can assign learning to your students by using Microsoft’s OneNote Class Notebook, an app that helps you set up and efficiently use OneNote in your class. This app will create a class notebook, which includes three types of sub-notebooks: Student, Content Library and Collaboration. Learn more about getting started with OneNote Class Notebook.

Why is Microsoft making this change and why in October 2018?

Microsoft is committed to providing the best in learning content to our customers as well as online experiences that are accessible and easy-to-use. Because of customer feedback we are creating a more unified experience using OneNote which will create a cohesive story around each course.

While it is never easy to pick an implementation date that will align well with a worldwide program and global academic audience, it was decided to implement this improvement as soon as engineering work could be completed.

Will I be able to get support to help me find the MSIA resources I need?

Yes. Educators should always consult the Member Site first for resources and guidance, both for specific courses and to browse. MSIA will also provide an online learning “catalog” containing a comprehensive list of all online learning courses we recommend for supporting your student’s learning experience, with links to those courses and their mapping to certifications, where applicable. If you need additional support, you can click the Support link on the Member Site.