

# Dos & don'ts of choosing an IT-training course

It is an era of competition where technology is the biggest tool. Even before they leave schools, children today are under immense pressure to decide a career path and follow it. Some choose to specialise in their subjects after graduation and opt for higher studies, others take up professional courses to be able to settle in a job as soon as possible.

A large number of students in India today are taking up IT courses during and after graduation to make a career in this field. An IT course not only gives one the knowhow about current technology but also teaches about the upcoming technology. However, choosing IT as a career path is a lot easier said than done. Not only do the students have to select their course very precisely keeping in mind their caliber, aptitude and interest, but they also have to choose the institute very carefully. Here are some dos and don'ts that are essential to follow while choosing an IT course and an institute:

1. Never take up an IT training course just because your friends are doing it. Make sure that you have your heart in what you are going to do. You should have an interest in what you are learning, as well as the right aptitude. You can't become an IT genius if you are a writer at heart. Know where your interest lies.
2. IT training is a way to acquire niche skills. You must always be on lookout for authorised training centers. Training companies that have accreditations from multiple technological conglomerates are your best bet to procure certified and authorised trainings.
3. Do check if the training centre itself is an authorised examination centre as well.
4. Do make sure that the infrastructure is top-notch. If the training centre has a dedicated datacentre, you would be better served.
5. Do ascertain that the training centre also provides access to labs and emphasises on practical training and hands-on learning. Theoretical knowledge is no good.
6. Do read up on the student testimonials, if any, written for the training organisation. While it has been noted that testimonials might not always be the most credible sources of ascertaining the quality of the Training Company, if the organisation can readily provide references for these testimonials on demand, you can rest assured about the quality of the company.
7. Try to talk to a few former students of the institute and ascertain what the classes are offering in theory and delivering in practice. Often, institutes fool students by promising a lab upgrade during the course of study. Don't get taken in by such promises and join a course only if the infrastructure is in place.
8. Do check if the training centre provides after-course support, so that when you make a transition to workplace, you can easily troubleshoot the technical problems with the trainers' help.
9. Do check the credentials of the trainers. If the trainers are certified by the technological conglomerate that they impart trainings on, it's a huge green tick for the training organisation.



## Don'ts

1. Don't judge a course or a training centre by the course fee. Niche IT courses often tend to be heavier on the pocket, but the Return on Investment is pretty spectacular.
2. Don't choose courses at random just because everyone is suddenly going gaga over it. Understand your needs, research, and then choose a particular course or set of courses to fulfil your requirements. You might not have the aptitude for learning software but you might well be equipped to learn hardware networking.
3. Don't stop only at your course. Enquire if the training centre provides combo courses that focus on additional skills important for career development.
4. Don't forget to check out and judge the social media presence of the training organisation. The more frequent and engaging the posts, the more likely is the company to live up to its billing.

— With inputs from Rohit Aggarwal, CEO Koenig Solutios  
(an IT offshore training company)