

## *How Does CSTP Certification Compare to Other Certifications?*

The comparison below is based on information published on web sites for these certifications.

	<b>IIST's CSTP</b>	<b>QAI's CSTE</b>	<b>ISTQB</b>
Organization awarding the certification	International Institute for Software Testing <a href="http://www.iist.org">www.iist.org</a>	Quality Assurance Institute <a href="http://www.qaiusa.com">www.qaiusa.com</a>	International Software Testing Qualification Board <a href="http://www.istqb.org">www.istqb.org</a>
Status of the awarding organization	Private – For-Profit	Private – For-Profit	Volunteers – Not for Profit
How decisions and directions regarding the certification are made	By an Independent Advisory Board	By QAI Examination Board	By an Independent Board
Formal training required for the certification to be awarded	10 days of formal classroom training with hands on workshops. Although IIST hosts this training, training is mostly conducted by outside instructors that are approved by IIST.	None. An optional 3-day prep course offered by QAI.	None. An optional 3-day prep course available from ISTQB certified training providers.
Handling of tests and student records	By IIST's independent graders	By QAI staff	By an independent board
Tests required	One test for each day of training – if two days of training are attended in one area, there is only one test for the two days. Pass score is 80%	One 3-hour test. Many were grandfathered without taking a test. Passing score is unknown.	One 90-minute test. Passing score is 65%
Testing experience required for the certification to be awarded	At least one year working in software testing	None	None
How detailed is the Body of Knowledge covered based on the certification	Body of Knowledge is covered by 10 days of formal training	Body of Knowledge is covered by an optional 3-day course	Body of Knowledge is covered by an optional 3-day course
Cost	Cost of training + \$120 graduation fee	\$300 for taking or re-taking the exam	\$250 for taking or re-taking the exam.

	<p>(graduates get a brass/Cherry wood plaque plus a lapel pin).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of training is approximately \$5,500 for all 10 days of training if courses are attended in a public setting and it goes down to approximately \$2,400 if courses are held at your company site.</li> <li>- No cost for taking or re-taking exam.</li> </ul>		
Is re-certification through continuous education required?	Yes	Yes	No
Benefit of having been through the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student has 80 hours of education from world-class instructors who are experts in their niche areas.</li> <li>- Student has expertise to add real value to their organization as a result of techniques and methods taught during 80 hrs of real-world classroom training.</li> <li>- Marketability might be gained from holding the certification</li> </ul>	Marketability might be gained from holding the certification	Marketability might be gained from holding the certification