

Spring 2016 - Solidworks Online class resulting in CSWA certification testing

Overview: The goal of this class is to enable the student to get enough training and time using Solidworks to enable you to pass the Solidworks Associate exam (CSWA). Following the lessons created for the class in Solidprofessor along with some concerted effort and practice on your own time should position you well to take the test.

Prerequisites: You will need to have taken IDP151, either this year or previous, or have approximately 30 hours of Solidworks experience.

Costs: You will need to purchase a student account with Solidprofessor for \$75. The test fee for the CSWA (normally \$100) is covered by Smith's license with Solidworks.

Testing: The CSWA test will be proctored at Smith by Eric Jensen at the end of the course in late March.

Schedule:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Due By / Meeting times</i>
IDP151 5'th day kickoff	Jan 16 / 9AM to 4PM Bass 103
Assignment 1 - Sketching, Basic Features	Jan 28 / 6 to 8PM Bass 103
Assignment 2 - Intermediate Parts, Drawings	Feb 11 / 6 to 8PM Bass 103
Assignment 3 - Assembly	Feb 25 / 6 to 8PM Bass 103
Assignment 4 - CSWA Prep	Mar 10 / 6 to 8PM Bass 103
CSWA exam	TBD (after spring break)

We will meet on each date listed above at 6:00 PM in Bass 103. The first four meetings will be to review the previous assignment, and work through any issues that students need help with. The last meeting will be to take the Certification test. This is a timed test that takes 3 hours to complete and cannot be paused once it's begun.

Tips for success:

If you have a good understanding of basic SW part modeling functionality you should have no trouble passing the CSWA exam. Advice from those who have created this test suggest that a person needs 45 hours of time using the software before they are ready to test. While this sounds like a lot, if you do the assignments, practice parts, and try sample exams this should be enough. You do have 9 weeks to prepare.

Nothing beats practice using the software. You will be provided with access to many sample parts that you can create. It is highly recommended that you work on as many of these as you can once you have completed your bi-weekly assignment.

If you have a Windows laptop, you can get your own copy of SolidWorks on it for free through Smith's contract with them (Smith students only). Install it and sharpen your skills during spring break, the week before the test.