

Interskill recognizes that today's learners require flexible learning programs to meet the needs of the organizations they work for. This might mean that generic learning plans which incorporate e-Learning and assessments, are sufficient to provide learners with the skills and knowledge they require, with validation of this information being through IBM endorsed badges.

Organizations looking to elevate this learning to the next level, can access Interskill's Enhanced Learning Pathways, which provide coaching/mentoring tools that can be used in-house to bring organizational perspective to Interskill e-Learning content. Interskill labs are also an integral part of these Enhanced Learning Pathways as they provide the learner with hands-on exercises and scenarios in their own sandbox environment.



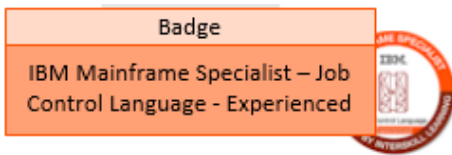
Interskill Learning Toolkit

e-Learning module
Input Data Requirements Using DD Statements
1 hour

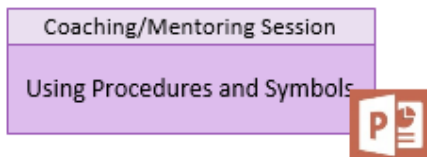
Each Learning Pathway consists of several Interskill e-Learning modules, which covers information about a specific aspect of the overall course. In this example, the module discusses the JCL parameters required when specifying input data to a program.

Assessment
JCL Concepts
45 minutes

While e-Learning modules contain built in quiz and scored questions, these are largely designed for the student so that they can verify their understanding of the content covered in that module. Separate assessments, such as the JCL Concepts assessment shown here, are introduced at integral stages of the learning, providing more scenario-based questions requiring a greater level of learner interaction. These assessments provide questions from a pool, so that no student will encounter the exact same test.



IBM Digital badges are award for successful completion of Interskill e-Learning courses and assessments.



Interskill provides in-house PowerPoint presentations that can be used to expand on content covered in Interskill modules. These templates allow coaches or mentors to impart specific organizational details relating to Interskill content, to the learner. In the case of JCL, it takes these learning interventions and wraps standards, procedures and processes around it, creating a more valuable organizational-specific, learning plan for the learner.

These items appear in the Enhanced Learning Pathways.

Mainframe Sandbox Exercises
GDG and z/OS UNIX Use
1 hour

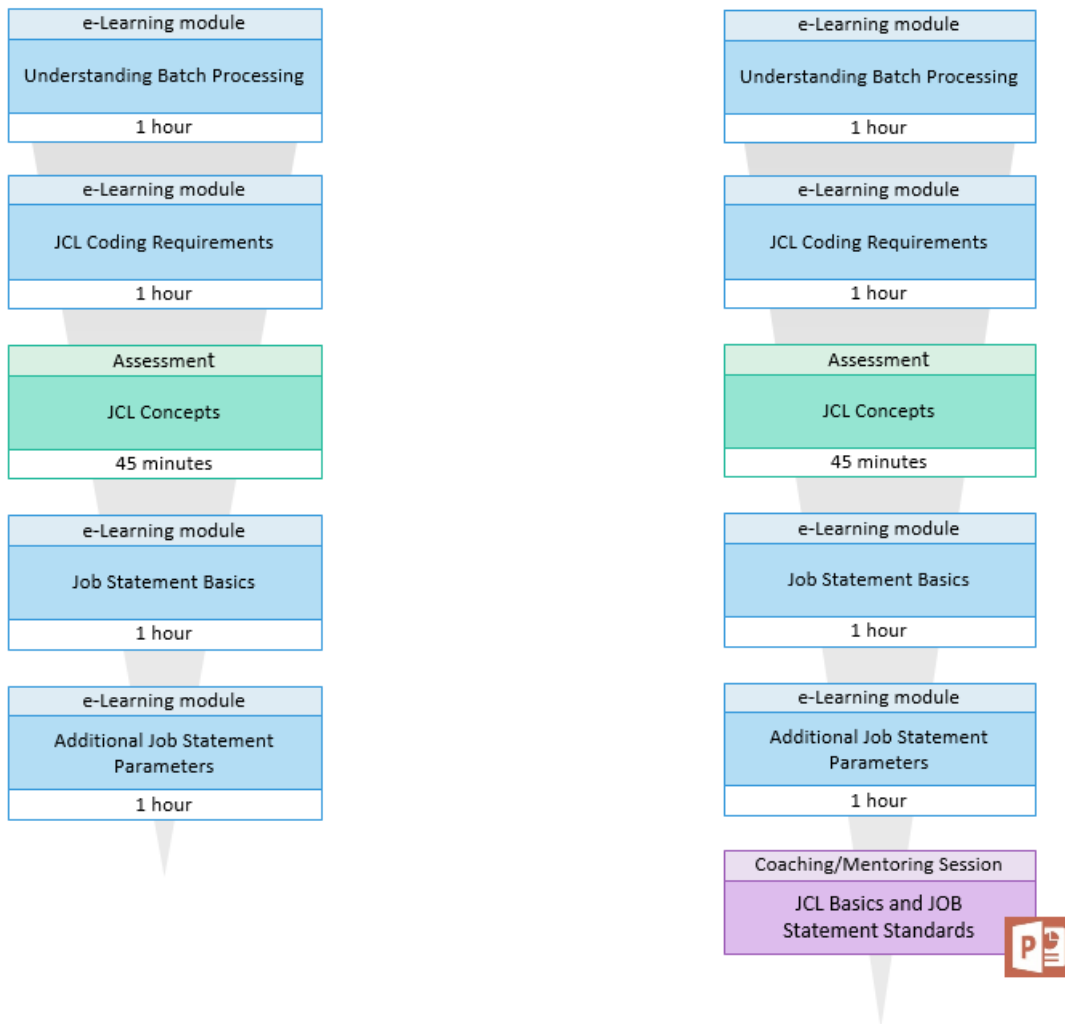
The Interskill Mainframe Sandbox Exercises consist of files that can be downloaded to your own training sandbox, and used by the learner to complete a number of hands-on tasks. In the example shown here, JCL exercises involving the creation and referencing of GDG base entries and generation data sets is covered as well as JCL used for common z/OS UNIX tasks. The Sandbox Exercises are designed with hint and solution files so that the learner needs no assistance from other technical experts.

These items appear in the Enhanced Learning Pathways.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

JCL Basics and the JOB Statement

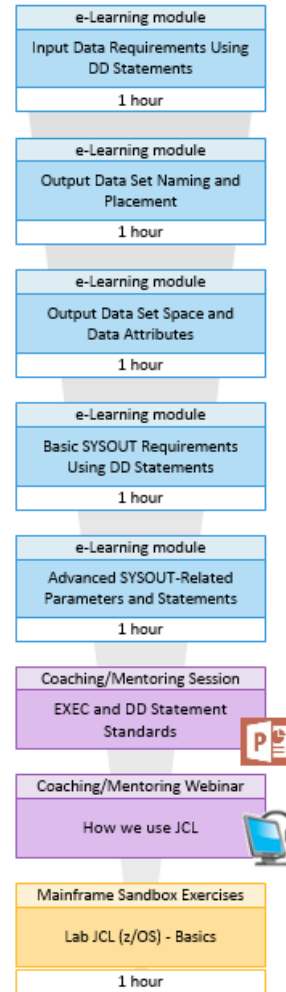
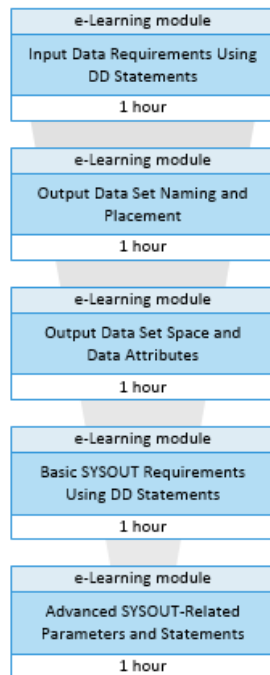


The “JCL Basics and JOB Statement Standards” Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module designed to allow you to provide a general description of how JCL is used in your organization, where it is stored, and the personnel who are responsible for maintaining it. You are then given the opportunity to describe actual JCL formatting standards that are enforced by your organization, and the implications of not adhering to these standards. Specific JOB statement syntax used in your organization is also covered in this session. The resulting presentation is designed to be used in a coaching or mentoring session.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

Input and Output JCL Statements



The **“EXEC and DD Statements Standards”** Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module that enables you to describe your organization’s rules when coding EXEC and DD statements, and the implications if these standards are not used.

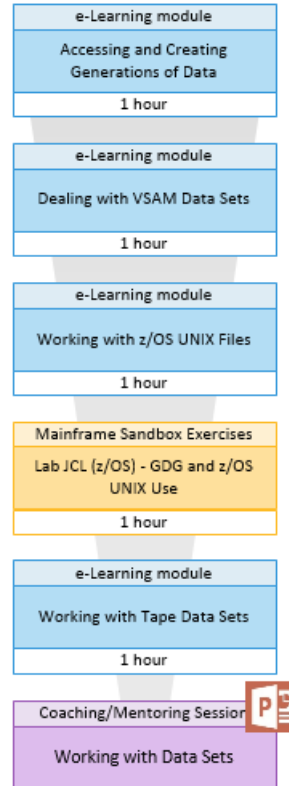
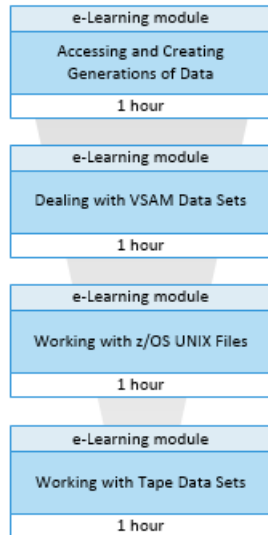
The **“How we use JCL”** Coaching/Mentoring Webinar that appears at the end of the pathway utilizes the technical expertise in your organization to impart the organization-specific JCL knowledge that is required by learners. Pre-Webinar activities include gathering information about the learners’ current knowledge of JCL and asking them whether they have any questions related to previous training. This information is then presented at various stages throughout the Webinar, and learners are provided with JCL coding exercises that are based on your organization’s standards.

The **“Lab JCL(z/OS) - Basics”** Mainframe Sandbox Exercises are a collection of JCL exercises that can be run within your organization in a Sandbox environment. Exercises are designed to test your skills and knowledge recovering from JCL syntax errors, building JOB statements to provide batch job defaults, EXEC statements to execute a program or procedure, and DD statements to create and reference data sets and SYSOUT.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

Working with Special Data Sets



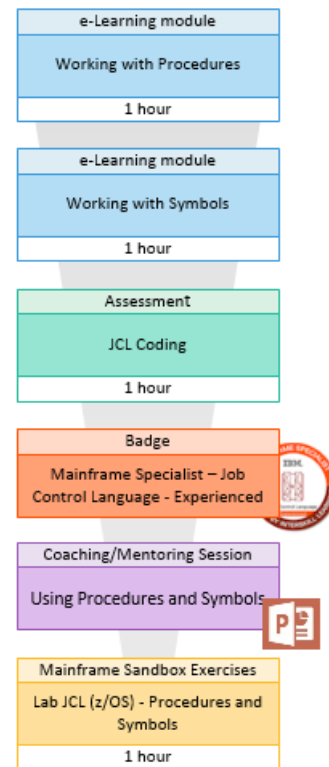
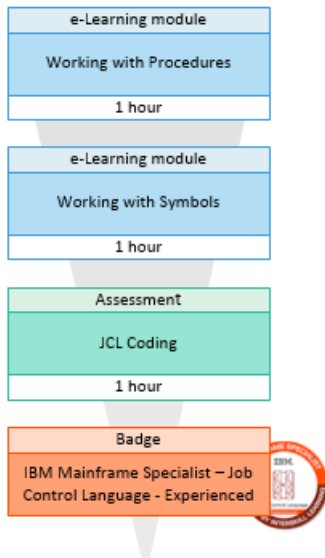
The “**Lab JCL(z/OS) - GDG and z/OS UNIX Use**” Mainframe Sandbox Exercises are a collection of JCL exercises that can be run within your organization in a Sandbox environment. Exercises are designed to test your skills and knowledge relating to creating, referencing and managing generation data groups, and generation data sets. Later exercises look at creating z/OS UNIX files and resolving problems when this data is incorrectly referenced in JCL.

The “**Working with Data Sets**” Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module that explains the use of various types of data sets that are used by your organization, and the naming and attribute-related standards that apply to them.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

Working with Procedures and Symbols



The “**Mainframe Specialist – Job Control Language - Experienced**” badge acknowledges that this person can now code JOB, EXEC and DD statements to create a batch job that invokes a program or procedure. They can also define various types of input and output data sets within JCL and create SYSOUT data where required. The individual can define, modify, and reference system symbols in their JCL code.

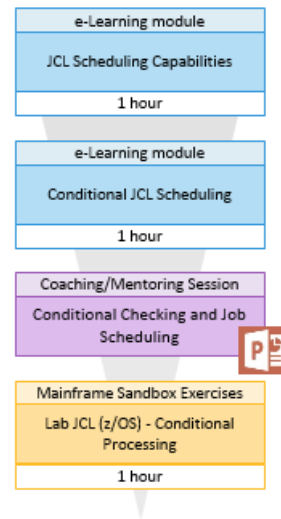
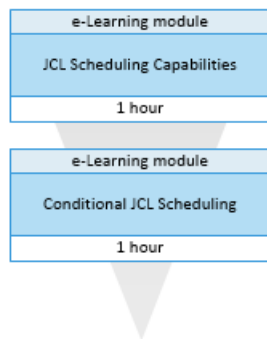
The “**Using Procedures and Symbols**” Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module that enables you to describe how procedures must be coded in your environment, and the static and dynamic symbols that can be used in your organization. The resulting presentation is designed to be used in a coaching or mentoring session.

The “**Lab JCL(z/OS) - Procedures and Symbols**” Mainframe Sandbox Exercises are a collection of JCL exercises that can be run within your organization in a Sandbox environment. Exercises are designed to test your skills and knowledge relating to coding and executing procedures and passing parameter values to them. Exercises relating to the use of system and JCL symbols is also provided.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

JCL Scheduling



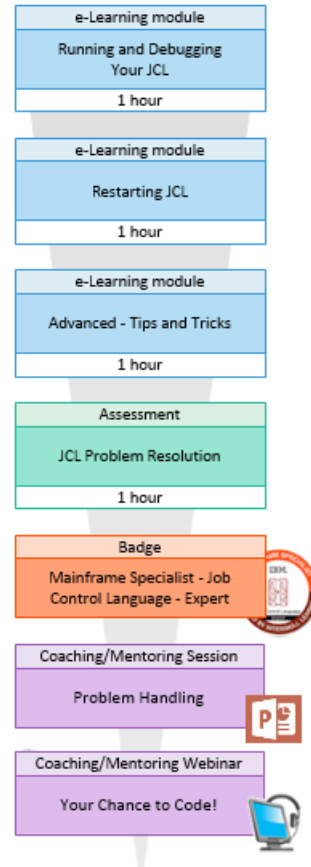
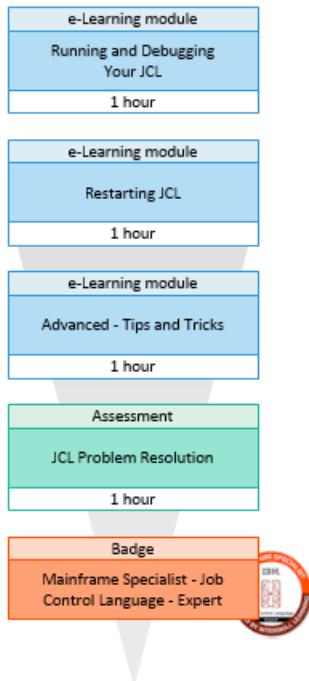
The “**Conditional Checking and JCL Scheduling**” Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module that allows you to explain whether the COND and/or the IF/THEN/ELSE/ENDIF construct is used, for conditional processing, and why. z/OS 2.2 systems and above provide basic job scheduling capabilities, and in this PowerPoint you can explain whether this is used, and why, and by whom.

The “**Lab JCL(z/OS) - Conditional Processing**” Mainframe Sandbox Exercises are a collection of JCL exercises that can be run within your organization in a Sandbox environment. Exercises require individuals to code COND parameters and IF/THEN/ELSE/ENDIF constructs based on job requirements. If scheduling capabilities are supported, then individuals will need to code job scheduling statements and parameters to support the flow of several jobs.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

Advanced JCL



The “**Mainframe Specialist – Job Control Language - Expert**” badge acknowledges that this person can now control batch processing using conditional checking, determine when a batch program has abnormally ended, and resolve various types of batch problems. They can perform a job restart and override statements when required.

The “**Problem Handling**” Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module that allows you to describe the process in which errors are handled if there is a problem with production, and your own, JCL. It also explains how to interpret common system and user error codes that appear in your organization’s JCL.

The “**Your Chance to Code!**” Coaching/Mentoring Webinar that appears at the end of the pathway utilizes the technical expertise in your organization to impart the organization-specific JCL knowledge that is required by learners. Pre-Webinar activities include gathering information about the learners’ current knowledge of JCL and asking them whether they have any questions related to previous training. This information is then presented at various stages throughout the Webinar. Interaction ensures that learners are educated about the errors that are common to their specific environments, and learners are provided with JCL coding exercises that are based on their organization’s standards.

Webinar Basics

Even if you have never run any training, the 7 steps provided below will provide you with the confidence to run a successful Webinar, using your organizations preferred Webinar solution.

- Step 1** You need to schedule and promote the Webinar (your HR personnel may be a good resource here). There also needs to be a process in place where learners undertaking the learning pathway, can notify when they have completed the learning pre-requisites, so that you know that they are ready to go.
- Step 2** You should become familiar with the Webinar product and the tools used for incorporating PowerPoint presentations, mainframe related JCL sessions or associated screen grabs, and audio and video interactions. If you have not run a Webinar previously, then you should practice talking, recording, switching between slides and browsers and handing control to those attending the seminar.
- Step 3** You should send an email to those that are attending the Webinar, firstly to remind them of when it is being run, but also to find out whether they have any questions or specific information they would like covered/clarified throughout the Webinar.
- Step 4** Customize the content of the Webinar PowerPoint presentation/s. These have been designed to cover technical points and provide periods of interaction between the presenter and the learner (the length of each Webinar is approximately 60 minutes). The content is also designed to put the presenter in the shoes of the learner.
- Step 5** Before the live event you need to rehearse the content.
- Step 6** When the Webinar begins, welcome each attendee, just as you would in a classroom environment (if the numbers permit) and remember to be engaging and sound confident. Make sure that you press the Record button before start also!
- Step 7** On completion, thank them for attending and describe to them their next step in the learning process. Follow this up the next day with an email link to the recorded Webinar.

