

# A.S. in Computer Information Systems

## DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROGRAM

The Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Computer Information Systems is a 60-credit program that examines how modern hardware and software systems are organized and work together. This is done by teaching students how to relate to and utilize computer systems and apply them to solving these real-world problems. The courses cover a broad range of topics ranging from coding in many languages such as Java and C++ to database design and computer architecture.

## SKILLS

**Analytical skills.** Administrators need to evaluate networks and systems to make sure that they perform reliably and to anticipate new requirements as customers' needs change.

**Leadership skills.** Many computer network architects' direct teams of engineers, such as computer hardware engineers, who build the networks they have designed.

**Ingenuity.** Information security analysts must anticipate information security risks and implement new ways to protect their organizations' computer systems and networks.

## CAREER INFORMATION

Computer networks are critical parts of almost every organization. Network and computer systems administrators are responsible for the day-to-day operation of these networks. They organize, install, and support an organization's computer systems, including local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), network segments, intranets, and other data communication systems. Computer network architects design and build data communication networks. Information security analysts plan and carry out security measures to protect an organization's computer networks and systems. Their responsibilities are continually expanding as the number of cyberattacks increases.

## EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Employment of network and computer systems administrators is projected to grow 3 percent from 2021 to 2031, slower than the average for all occupations. Employment of computer network architects is projected to grow 4 percent from 2021 to 2031, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Employment of information security analysts is projected to grow 35 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations.

## CAREER PATH

The median annual wage for network and computer systems administrators was \$80,600 in May 2021. Most network and computer systems administrators work full time. Organizations depend on their computer networks, so administrators may need to work overtime to ensure that the networks are operating properly around the clock.

The median annual wage for computer network architects was \$120,520 in May 2021. Most computer network architects work full time. Some work more than 40 hours per week.

The median annual wage for information security analysts was \$102,600 in May 2021. Most information security analysts work full time. Information security analysts sometimes have to be on call outside of normal business hours in case of an emergency. Some work more than 40 hours per week.

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