

Pathways Into INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



We've taken into consideration future job growth, variety of future career options, number of job openings, and future talent shortages to help estimate how "high opportunity" some great positions are.

Opportunity Level Key

- 😊 Good
- 😄 Great
- 😎 Amazing

Essential Skills to Launch Your Career

IT is in high demand across every industry, and will continue to be one of the most competitive career paths you can pursue. Over 70% of jobs require mid to high-level technical skills. Employers are looking for people with integrity who can problem solve, work quickly and efficiently, communicate well, interact with customers in a professional way, and pay attention to detail. Organizational skills, self-motivation, and the ability to work independently are all skills that are highly valued in this sector.

IT for High Schoolers

No diploma required

Computer User Support Specialists \$18.46/hr entry 😊

Job Titles Include: On Site Service Technician, Client Support Specialist, NOC Tech, Service Center Analyst

Network & Computer System Admin \$29.00/hr entry 😊

Job Titles Include: Windows System Administrator, Network Associate, Storage Administrator, Data Center Operations Technician

Bachelor's Degree preferred - Pathway Careers

Information Support & Services \$30.63/hr average 😊

Web & Digital Communications \$36.65/hr average 😎

Network Systems \$45.30/hr average 😎

Programming & Software Dev. \$53.17/hr average 😎

Cybersecurity (HOT JOBS, RAPIDLY RISING DEMAND ACROSS ALL PATHWAYS!) \$65.80/hr average 😎

**All salary and occupation data from 2018 Q2 Census of Employment and Wages by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Ramsey County, MN.*

Getting Started

- **Take a career exploration quiz** to evaluate your interest in the field overall. CAREERwise.minnstate.edu has great tools on their "Assess Yourself" page.
- **Learn** about different types of IT positions. Each career path has slightly different skill needs, and exploring a variety of positions can help you be more strategic about your professional and educational development.
- **Explore** by getting some hands-on experience. Employers love seeing examples of real work you have done, even if it's simply for a class project. Showing that you can apply your knowledge is essential.
- **Talk to your career navigator** in your school about classes or experiences you could have now to help build your academic and professional toolkit. Here are a few options available to you:
 - **IT Fundamentals; Programming Fundamentals** - WBLAS (9-12)
 - **AP Computer Science Principles** - WBLAS (11-12)
 - **Tech Club; Tech Depot; Maker's Space** - WBLAS North & South Campus

What makes these careers great?

- **Start with a high salary.** IT jobs are some of the highest paying entry-level jobs.
- **High demand.** Employers are struggling to fill positions. Though 98% of IT jobs advertise wanting someone with a Bachelor's degree, if you have the skills required to do the work, you should always apply.
- **Be yourself.** IT jobs are some of the most flexible, making them particularly attractive to Gen Z. Work-from-home and flexible work hours are very common in this sector.
- **Keep developing yourself.** In order to remain competitive in this sector, you'll have the benefit of continuing to learn new things. Keeping up with cutting-edge technology will keep your skills fresh and your career path competitive.
- **Important skills.** IT skills are life skills. As all industries become increasingly high tech and automation continues, people with IT careers will be some of the most job-secure.
- **Work anywhere.** Every industry needs IT. Work in a financial institution, for the government, for a manufacturer--no limits!

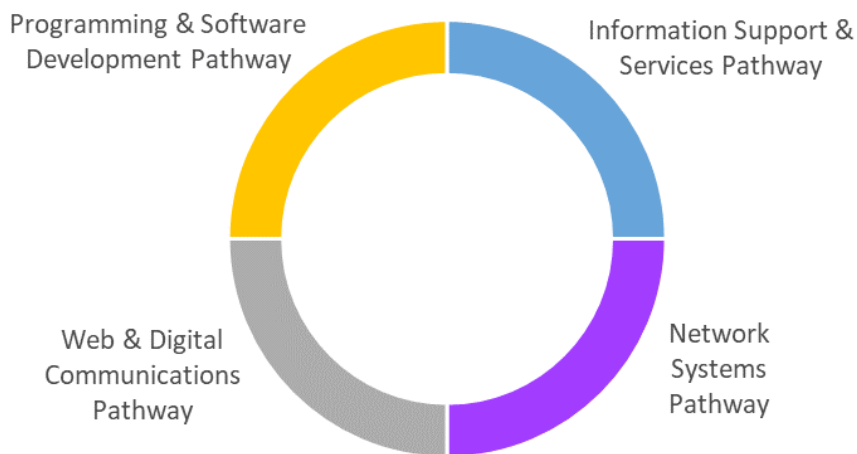
Next Career Move

Smart Certs

- **Microsoft Certified Professional** status will help you to stand out in the job market. This certification is currently the highest in-demand for entry level positions. Currently the top-paying 15% of metro area User Support and Network Admin positions require this certification.
- **A+ Certification** is in high demand for positions of all experience and education levels.
- **Security clearance** may be required for many advanced positions and even some entry-level roles. In any position where you are handling confidential information, a clean background check will be important.



EXPLORE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAREERS



Data and design by RealTime Talent, November 2018



Career Pathways CONTACTS

Jenny Moore

jennifer.moore@isd624.org

651.773.6213

*South Campus Office
Room 108*

Jeremy Kerg

jeremy.kerg@isd624.org

651.773.6239

*South Campus College &
Career Center*