

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

What can I do with this Major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

Systems Development

Analysis
Design
Support
Systems
Integration
Database Administration
Business Application Development
Executive Administration

Most areas of business and government:
Financial institutions
Insurance companies
Consulting firms
Manufacturers
Computer companies
Telecommunications companies
Retailers
Healthcare organizations
Hotels and restaurants
Entertainment companies
Educational institutions
City, state, and federal government

-Develop excellent interpersonal skills for effective communication with technical and non-technical colleagues.
-Gain programming experience and knowledge for increased opportunities.
-Become an effective problem solver.
-Plan to continually educate self on new computer languages and technology.
-Obtain business experience through internships or part-time employment.
-Supplement program with courses in accounting, human resources, and procurement.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Network Technology

Intranet Development
Intranet Administration
Hardware and Software Design
Support

Most areas of business and government:
Financial institutions
Insurance companies
Manufacturers
Computer companies
Telecommunications companies
Retailers
Healthcare organizations
Hotels and restaurants
Entertainment companies
Educational institutions
City, state, and federal government

-Gain work experience in university computer labs.
-Gain knowledge in a variety of computer areas including minor programming, software, and hardware.
-Plan to stay abreast of latest technology and software.
-Obtain applicable certifications such as Cisco or Microsoft.
-Develop relationships with small business owners for part-time or freelance network consulting opportunities.
-Supplement program with courses in computer science.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Non-Technical

Customer Service
Product Support
Training
Technical Writing
Sales
Marketing

Software developers
Technical service providers

-Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills.
-Display interest and ability in customer problem solving.
-Work in university computer labs.
-Take technical writing courses to develop skills.
-Obtain general sales or customer service experience.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Internet

Programming
Software Design
Systems Analysis
Hardware Production
Web Site Design
Web Site Administration

Network access points
Internet service providers
Hardware and software vendors
Internet-related companies including:
Browsers
Search engines
Web site design services
Organizations with complex, self-manage
web sites

-Gain experience in web development or maintenance through part-time jobs or internships.
-Volunteer to design web sites for student organizations or community groups.
-Learn web-related programming languages.
-Develop a flare for creativity.
-Learn to work effectively in a team by participating in group projects or student organizations.
-Earn a graduate degree in technology or business for advanced opportunities in analysis, project management, and executive operations.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Education/Training

Proprietary (for profit) schools
Community colleges
Universities
Corporations
Non-profit organizations

-Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching opportunities.
-Develop a research specialty.
-Gain experience working with students through tutoring or assisting in computer labs.
-Obtain advanced certifications for training opportunities.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Consulting

Consulting firms
Self-employed

-Develop exceptional analytical and interpersonal skills for communicating with clients.
-Obtain a strong technical knowledge of computers, a background in business management, and experience in systems analysis.
-Become familiar with various programming languages and operating systems.
-Earn applicable certifications.
-Demonstrate ability to self-motivate and work independently.
-For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Information Systems/Technology

Design/Development
Management/Operation
Database Administration
Computer Support
Network Administration
Programming
Systems analysis
Training

Libraries
Public, academic and special
Data processing centers
Corporations
Research centers
Government
Universities

- Professionals involved in information systems help organizations with the storage, retrieval, and management of records or information and incorporate and support information technology into an organization.
- An undergraduate degree in management information systems (MIS) or computer science is the preferred background before earning a master's in information science.
- Build a strong computer background in programming skills using several languages, various operating systems, database management, software and networks.
- Increase employment opportunities through product related certification or by earning Certified Computing Professional (CCP) status conferred by the Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals. CCP's must pass an examination and meet various requirements.
- Gain related experience through internships, co-ops or part-time employment.
- Develop excellent written and oral communication

Information Services

Information service agencies
Research centers
Self-employed/consulting
Large corporations

- Provide information research and services to corporations, writers or individuals needing information or references on a particular subject.
- Develop excellent research, writing and organizational skills.
- Expertise in an industry or subject area may be helpful.
- Supplement undergraduate curriculum with courses in business to gain an understanding of marketing principles.
- For more information about salary, job outlook and general descriptions: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

General Information:

Be aware that careers in computers and technology are constantly changing.

-Be prepared to retrain and learn new information on a regular basis.

-Certifications are often an important part of training for technical careers. Obtain the certifications that are the most applicable to career goals and interests.

-Gain as much diverse technical experience as possible. Seek positions in computer labs, retail computer/technology stores, or as technological support for any office or business.

-Learn about technology in additional areas such as audio/visual or telecommunications. Become familiar with the integration and application of these areas to management information systems.

-Develop physical stamina and strength. Many networking professionals are involved in hands-on, physical activity during network installation and maintenance.

-Specialize in a specific area of business or industry such as medical office support or sound technology so as to become familiar with the applicable software and hardware.

Qualifications important to the field include the ability to work well with people, good written and oral communication skills, intelligence and curiosity.

Research and computer skills, an eye for detail and a general love of learning are also essential.

-Understanding trends in media, computers/technology, and publishing is important to success in profession.

-Virtually any undergraduate degree can offer good preparation for graduate programs.

-Supplement undergraduate curriculum with courses in communications, media, computers, business or technology. Some areas of information or library sciences may require related bachelor's or master's degrees.

-Choose master's degree programs in library or information science that are accredited by the American Library Association to maximize employment opportunities.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2003)

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