

Career Focus on...

Network Associate

Introduction

- Do you have good communication skills, the ability to work on multiple projects at once, and a desire to play a key role in your workplace?
- Would you like a career in a high-growth industry that is constantly evolving?
- Are you interested in developing IT skills, including troubleshooting and computer hardware installation?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, you may want to consider a Network Associate Certificate at QCC.

Did You Know...?

- IT professionals install hardware and troubleshoot computer problems; they are crucial employees at most modern organizations.
- Working in troubleshooting and installation helps IT professionals stay current with changes to software and operating systems.
- In addition to developing technical skills, Network Associates develop the teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving skills that are in demand in today's workplace.
- A certificate can be a first step towards earning an Associate's degree. Students who complete an Associate's degree at QCC may be able to transfer to a variety of other schools to continue their education.

Network Associate Certificate @ QCC

The Network Associate Certificate prepares students for entry level IT positions such as a Network Administrator or Network Associate. The program covers operating systems as well as routing, storage, and networking technologies.

- Upon completion of this certificate graduates will be able to sit for:
- CompTIA's Linux+ examination,
- CompTIA's Network+ examination,
- Cisco's CCNA examination, and
- Microsoft's Certified Professional (MCP) certifications in one of several client operating systems.

Career Options

COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Median Annual Salary: \$46,260

Recommended Education: Some college
www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-support-specialists.htm

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST

Median Annual Salary: \$78,770

Recommended Education: Associate's degree
www.onetonline.org/link/summary/15-1121.00

NETWORK AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

Median Annual Salary: \$69,160

Recommended Education: Bachelor's degree
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/network-and-computer-systems-administrators.htm>

Worcester Area Employers

- Abbott Laboratories
- AbleBridge
- Atos
- Charter Communications
- City of Worcester
- Desco Industries
- EMC
- The Hanover Insurance Group
- Intel Corp.
- Quinsigamond Community College
- Reliant Medical Group
- UMass Memorial Medical Center

Professional Associations

- Computing Technology Industry Association:
www.comptia.org
- Information Technology Association of America:
www.techamerica.org
- Information Systems Security Association:
www.issa.org
- Association for Computing Machinery:
www.acm.org
- IEEE Computer Society:
www.computer.org

Next Steps

Wondering if the Network Associate Certificate is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers:
www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess
- Research the web links on this *Career Focus* page, as well as links suggested online under Career Information: www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo
- Conduct an Informational Interview with someone employed in the field. For more information on how to do this, review the Informational Interview links online:
www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview
- Attend a Career Planning Session. For more information, and the current schedule, visit Career Academic Personal Success (CAPS) online:
www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success
- Speak with an Advisor:
www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Network Associate courses.

Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*:

- Computer Support Specialist:
www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-support-specialists.htm
- Network and Computer Systems Administrator:
www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/network-and-computer-systems-administrators.htm

O*NET Online:

- 15-1121.00 - Computer Systems Analysts: www.onetonline.org/link/summary/15-1121.00

Quinsigamond Community College Online Course Catalog:

- Computer Systems Engineering Technology Certificate: Network Associate:
www.qcc.edu/academics/technology/computer-systems-engineering-technology/network-associate

Positions Entered by

QCC Graduates

- Entry-Level Programmer
- Help Desk Technician
- IT Tech
- Network Engineer/Systems Analyst
- Tier-One Computer Tech

Employment,

Co-op, Internship, or Service Learning Opportunities

Contact the Career Placement Office:

www.QCC.edu/pages/Career_Placement.html

Possible Transfer Schools

- Assumption College
- Fitchburg State University
- Johnson & Wales University
- Northeastern University
- UMass Amherst
- UMass Lowell
- Westfield State University
- Worcester State University

Specific Transfer Information

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site:
www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor:
www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar
- Email questions to:
transfer@qcc.mass.edu

Quinsigamond Community College is part of the Massachusetts Community Colleges and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda, which brings together Massachusetts' 15 community colleges, the Commonwealth's adult basic education and workforce development systems, career centers and industry stakeholders to change the way education and skills training are delivered and to prepare dislocated and under-skilled workers for the emerging, knowledge-based economy. As part of the initiative, Quinsigamond Community College supports students along efficient career pathways by helping them attain degrees, certificates and industry recognized credentials through accelerated programs linked closely to industry need. The statewide initiative is supported by a \$20 million, three-year grant from the United States Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration TAACCCT. Grant Agreement #TC-22505-11-60-A-25.