Career Focus on…
Network Professional

Introduction

- Are you interested in developing your Information Technology (IT) and project management skills?
- Do you have good communication and multitasking skills?
- Would you like to work in a career in a growth industry with many opportunities for advancement?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, you may want to consider a Network Professional Certificate.

Did You Know…?

- If you are proficient in computer applications to Microsoft certification standards, you may already be able to earn credit for one of the required classes in this program.
- Many of the state's fastest growing occupations are IT-related, including network systems analysts, data communications analysts, and computer software engineers. The growth reflects increased business demand for faster and more powerful computer systems.
- In addition to developing technical skills, Network Professionals 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 schools to continue their education.

Network Professional@ QCC

The Network Professional Certificate at QCC prepares students to work in the IT field with a focus on advanced training in net administration. Potential career destinations include Network Designer, Manager, or Engineer. Graduates are prepared to work in virtually any business or organization that utilizes computers and computer networks. The program adheres to industry standards developed to measure and promote the competency of IT professionals.

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

COMPUTER HARDWARE ENGINEER
Median Annual Salary: $98,810
Recommended Education: Bachelor's degree
www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/computer-hardware-engineers.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

QUINSIGAMOND
Community College

Next Steps

Wondering if Network Professional 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 Professional Certificate 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
- Computer Hardware Engineer:
  www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/computer-hardware-engineers.htm

O*NET Online:

- "Summary Report for: 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: Professional:
  www.qcc.edu/academics/technology/computer-systems-engineering-technology/network-professional

Professional Associations

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

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 Services Office:
www.QCC.edu/services/career-placement-services

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

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