



Is a Career in IT Right For Me?



If you're looking to launch a new chapter or considering a career change, you are not alone. The dynamic, ever-evolving world of information technology (IT) could be a great option to explore.



A career in IT is great for people who are:

**PROBLEM-SOLVERS
BY NATURE**

**LOOKING FOR A CAREER
WITH FLEXIBILITY AND
WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

**SEEKING AN OPPORTUNITY
WITH PLENTY OF ROOM
FOR GROWTH AND HIGH
EARNING POTENTIAL**



In this guide:

WHY PURSUE A CAREER IN IT?.....	1
IT INDUSTRY AT-A-GLANCE.....	2
IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?.....	3
PERSONALITY & SKILLS ASSESSMENT	
SKILLS ASSESSMENT.....	3
WHAT JOBS CAN YOU DO WITH AN IT CERTIFICATE?....	4
SAMPLE JOB HIGHLIGHTS.....	5
IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST	
INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYST	



Why pursue a career in IT?

Did you know that the demand for IT professionals is expected to grow by 15% from 2021 to 2031?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the IT industry will have over 400,000 job openings per year during this period.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR YOU?

There's never been a better time to earn your certificate in IT online. The jobs are out there!

The certificate program you choose should be aligned with the job you want. For example, if you want to be a Software Developer, earning your certificate in this area (and taking relevant accredited exams) is recommended.

3 Reasons to Join the Fast-Growing IT Industry:

1

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Explore a diverse range of IT careers tailored to your passions and talents, from technical support to cybersecurity and web development.

2

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES & JOB SECURITY

Join a rapidly growing industry driven by technological advancements and increasing demand for IT services, ensuring abundant career opportunities and job security.

3

AFFORDABLE POINT OF ENTRY

Qualified IT professionals are desperately needed across the country. In many cases, you can start working once you finish a certificate in your chosen area and receive accreditation.



IT Industry At-A-Glance

418,500

Number of new job openings per year in computer and information technology

15%

Predicted growth of IT occupations through 2031

\$46.84

Median hourly wage of all levels of computer and mathematical occupations

Is IT Right for You?

SKILLS & PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

Time to get out your pen or pencil! The checklist below can be used to help you determine if your personality and skill set would make a good match for a career in IT. Check all the ones that apply to you and then use the rubric at the bottom to assess your results.

- Are you a problem solver who enjoys finding solutions to complex issues?
- Do you remain calm and productive (or even thrive) in high-pressure situations?
- Are you motivated by the opportunity to make a positive impact on people's lives, helping them solve their technical problems?
- Are you a lifelong learner who enjoys staying up-to-date with the latest advancements in technology and IT practices?
- Do you possess excellent communication skills and enjoy building rapport with a wide range of people?
- Are you detail-oriented?
- Do you possess strong organizational skills?
- Are you comfortable working in a team-based environment?
- Are you resilient and able to handle emotionally demanding situations?
- Are you attracted to the prospect of continuous personal and professional growth, with various opportunities for advancement within the IT field?
- Total number of checkmarks**

DETERMINING YOUR RESULTS:

3 or more IT could be a good path to pursue

6 or more An IT career is a great fit for you

8 or more What are you waiting for? IT aligns brilliantly with your skills & personality!

What IT Jobs Can I Do with a Certificate?

Here's a list of some jobs in IT that you can do with just a professional certificate and a high school diploma or equivalency:

- CIO/IT MANAGEMENT
- CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONAL
- SOFTWARE ENGINEER
- DATA ANALYST
- DATA SCIENTIST
- DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
- IT PROJECT MANAGER
- IT REPAIR TECHNICIAN
- IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST
- NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
- SOFTWARE DEVELOPER
- SOFTWARE QUALITY ASSURANCE
- SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
- WEB DEVELOPER



Sample a Highlight: IT Support Specialist

How to Get This Job

Pursue a beginner-level CompTIA certification, like CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ or CompTIA A+. These courses will help you build your skills with a relatively low amount of upfront investment. CompTIA certificate programs are recognized nationally, and they offer a great way to continue building your skills over time as you take more advanced courses.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST

- 8:30 AM** The IT Support Specialist arrives at the office. They check their email and see that a user is having trouble accessing a shared drive on the network. The IT Support Specialist troubleshoots and discovers that the user's account was locked out. They reset the user's password and verify that they can now access the drive.
- 9:00 AM** The IT Support Specialist meets with the IT Manager to discuss a new software rollout that will be happening later in the week.
- 10:00 AM** A user reports that their computer is running slow. The IT Support Specialist remotely connects to the user's computer and runs a diagnostic test. They discover that the computer is infected with malware and proceed to remove it.
- 12:00 PM** The IT Support Specialist takes a lunch break.
- 1:00 PM** A user reports that their printer is not working. The IT Support Specialist troubleshoots the issue and discovers that the printer driver needs to be updated. They download the latest driver and install it on the user's computer.
- 2:00 PM** The IT Support Specialist receives a ticket from a user who is having trouble accessing their email. They investigate the issue and find that the user's email account has been compromised. They reset the user's password and enable two-factor authentication.
- 4:00 PM** The IT Support Specialist receives a call from a user who is dealing with VPN connection issues. They determine that the user's internet connection is unstable. They advise the user to contact their internet service provider to resolve the issue.
- 5:00 PM** The IT Support Specialist logs off for the day, ensuring that all open tickets are properly documented and updated with the status of each issue.

Sample Job Highlight: Information Security Analyst

How to Get This Job

Pursue an advanced progression of cybersecurity-related CompTIA courses. Begin with CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security+, and CompTIA Project+, followed by intermediate and advanced courses like CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst+, CompTIA PenTest+, and CompTIA CASP+. These courses will help you build your skills with a relatively low amount of upfront investment. CompTIA certificate programs are recognized nationally, and they offer a great way to continue building your skills over time as you take more advanced courses.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYST

8:30 AM The Information Security Analyst starts the day by arriving at the office. They review any urgent emails, messages, and alerts that have come in overnight to assess the security posture of the organization.

9:00 AM The analyst attends a morning team meeting, where they collaborate with fellow security team members and discuss ongoing security projects, recent incidents, and any new potential threats.

10:00 AM After the meeting, it's time to conduct a vulnerability assessment. This involves scanning the organization's systems, applications, and network infrastructure for potential weaknesses and security gaps. The analyst uses specialized tools to identify vulnerabilities.

12:00 PM The analyst takes a lunch break. They may use this time to read up on the latest cybersecurity trends, attend webinars, or take online courses to stay updated on the ever-evolving threat landscape.

1:00 PM Back at their workstation, the analyst receives an alert about a potential security incident. They immediately jump into action, investigating the incident, containing its impact, and implementing necessary measures to mitigate the threat.

3:00 PM One of the essential tasks of an Information Security Analyst is to conduct security awareness training for employees. They use this time to send an organization-wide email on how to best protect against cyber attacks.

4:30 PM Towards the end of the day, the analyst reviews and updates security policies and procedures. They ensure that the organization's security measures align with industry standards, compliance regulations, and emerging threats.