Career Guide:
COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Computer information systems (CIS) is a quickly growing field. As organizations place a greater focus on their computer networks and incorporate new technologies, CIS graduates will be in high demand for years to come.

INDUSTRY GROWTH IS TIED TO:

- Businesses increasingly expanding operations to digital and cloud-based technologies.
- A need for greater security for information and data.
- Increasing regulations for data security in healthcare and other businesses.

15% JOB GROWTH THROUGH 2024

2016 MEDIAN SALARY: $135,800

POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Chief information officer
- Chief technology officer
- Computer security specialist
- Database administrator
- IT director
- IT security managers
- Network engineer
- Systems administrator
- Web developer

JOB TASKS AND DUTIES

- Analyze computer needs and recommend upgrades.
- Plan and maintain computer hardware and software installation and maintenance.
- Ensure the security of network and digital files.
- Assess the costs and benefits of new technology projects.
- Learn about new technology.
- Determine IT personnel needs.

WHY PURSUE A CAREER IN CIS:

- Prevalence of computers
- Rewarding work
- Challenging problems to solve
- Opportunity to change the world with computer-driven innovation
- Job stability and growth opportunities
- Highly creative career
- Collaborative work environment

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WHAT TO EXPECT IN A COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROGRAM

CIS graduates gain the business and computer science skills needed for immediate employment as a computer programmer or analyst or networking professional. If you work in the field, you will learn to plan, coordinate and direct computer-related activities that help large or small organizations achieve their business goals.

CIS MAY BE A GOOD FIT IF YOU…

- Have a passion for technology.
- Want to learn more about the role computers play in business and everyday life.
- Enjoy mathematics.
- Are a critical and creative thinker.
- Work well as part of a team.
- Want to pursue a career in computer programming.
- Enjoy working with computers and figuring out how things work.

CLASSES MAY INCLUDE:

- Computer programming
- Data structures
- Logic and computation
- Computer architecture
- Cyber-security and safety
- Theory of computation
- Operating systems
- Computer networking
- Information theory
- Software testing

LOOK FOR A PROGRAM THAT OFFERS:

- Hands-on opportunities (such as internships and research) for practical experience in the field.
- Faculty with professional information systems experience and a real-world perspective.
- Access to state-of-the-industry software and hardware.
- Academic partners like Adobe, Microsoft, Oracle and IBM.
- Industry connections for professional networking.

Before you declare your major in CIS:

- Take computer classes at your high school or at a community college.
- Try out the industry with an internship.
- Take a career assessment test to match your skills with potential jobs.
- Find mentors who can give you insider insights on their careers.

"I got my first computer in the 6th grade or so. As soon as I got it, I was interested in finding out how it worked and how the programs worked and then figuring out how to write programs at just deeper and deeper levels within the system."

—*Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder of Facebook*

To learn about the CIS program at the University of Northern Colorado, visit us at
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