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

Source: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/computer-and-information-systems-managers.htm

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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.

To learn about the CIS program at the University of Northern Colorado, visit us at **UNCO.EDU/PROGRAMS/BUSINESS/COMPUTER-INFORMATION-SYSTEMS-BS/**

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

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