

Careers in Information Technology

Sample “Career Ladders” including Typical Yearly Salaries \$ and Required Education & Training 

These “career ladders” have been created to show you the kinds of positions available in different career fields, the opportunities for growth in these fields, and the kinds of education and training needed for each position. There are many more opportunities than are listed here. While we display several specific “career ladders,” it is important to know that there are numerous ways to progress (or “climb”) in every field. In fact, career ladders are as unique as individual workers.

The salary amounts shown are “median” annual earnings drawn from information available from the sources cited below and are specific to the Philadelphia region. A “median” is a number in the middle of a set of numbers. So half of the salaries found for a specific job were above that figure and half were below it.

Computer Software Engineer

 **\$83,130**
Bachelor's degree

Database Administrator

 **\$76,090**
Bachelor's degree


Computer Programmer

 **\$68,080**
Associate's degree


Computer Systems Analyst

 **\$73,090**
Bachelor's degree


Computer Programmer

 **\$68,080**
Associate's degree


Network and Computer Systems Administrator

 **\$64,690**
Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree in certain situations


Computer and Information Systems Manager

 **\$108,070**
Bachelor's degree or MBA in certain situations


Computer Software Engineer

 **\$83,130**
Bachelor's degree


Network and Computer Systems Administrator

 **\$64,690**
Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree in certain situations

Desktop Support Specialist

 **\$46,320**
High school diploma and certifications

Technical Support Specialist

 **\$42,400**
High school diploma and certifications



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This handout was created by the Philadelphia Youth Network with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry through the Regional Career Education Partnership program. Career overviews, wages, and experience requirements are adapted from the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition and the Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2007. Salary averages are specific to the Philadelphia region. For more information or to download copies, please visit www.pyninc.org.

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Sample “Career Ladders” including Typical Yearly Salaries and Required Education & Training

Computer Software Engineer

Computer software engineers apply the principles of computer science and mathematical analysis to the design, development, testing, and evaluation of the software and systems that make computers work.

\$83,130

Bachelor's degree in computer science, software engineering, or computer information systems

Database Administrator

Database administrators work with database management systems software and determine ways to organize and store data.

\$76,090

Bachelor's degree in computer science, information science, or management information systems

Computer Programmer

Computer programmers write, test, and maintain the detailed instructions, called programs, that computers follow to perform their functions. Programmers also conceive, design, and test logical structures for solving problems by computer.

\$68,080

Associate's degree

Technical Support Specialist

Technical support specialists provide technical assistance, support, and advice to customers and users.

\$42,400

High school diploma and computer certifications

Computer Systems Analyst

Computer systems analysts help organizations to use technology effectively and to incorporate rapidly changing technologies into their existing systems.

\$73,090

Bachelor's degree in computer science, information science, applied mathematics, engineering, physical sciences, or management information systems

Computer Programmer

Computer programmers write, test, and maintain the detailed instructions, — called programs — that computers follow to perform their functions. Programmers also conceive, design, and test logical structures for solving problems by computer.

\$68,080

Associate's degree

Network and Computer Systems Administrator

Network and computer systems administrators design, install, and support an organization's computer systems. They are responsible for local-area networks (LAN), wide-area networks (WAN), network segments, and Internet and intranet systems.

\$64,690

Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree in certain situations

Technical Support Specialist

Technical support specialists provide technical assistance, support, and advice to customers and users.

\$42,400

High school diploma and computer certifications

Computer and Information Systems Manager

Computer and information systems managers plan, coordinate, and direct research and facilitate the computer-related activities of firms .

\$108,070

Bachelor's degree; often a Master in Business Administration (MBA) with a technology emphasis is needed

Computer Software Engineer

Computer software engineers apply the principles of computer science and mathematical analysis to the design, development, testing, and evaluation of the software and systems that make computers work.

\$83,130

Bachelor's degree in computer science, software engineering, or computer information systems

Network and Computer Systems Administrator

Network and computer systems administrators design, install, and support an organization's computer systems. They are responsible for local-area networks (LAN), wide-area networks (WAN), network segments, and Internet and intranet systems.

\$64,690

Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree in certain situations

Desktop Support Specialist

Desktop support specialists provide PC hardware and software support, installations, support, and advice to customers.

\$46,320

High school diploma and computer certifications

Technical Support Specialist

Technical support specialists provide technical assistance, support, and advice to customers and users.

\$42,400

High school diploma and computer certifications