THE CAREER

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.

Computer support specialists provide technical assistance and advice to customers and other users. This occupational group includes technical support specialists and help-desk technicians.

PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

Those pursuing a career in this field should:
- Have strong problem-solving and analytical skills
- Be able to communicate effectively on paper, via e-mail, over the phone or in person
- Have strong writing skills, which are useful in preparing manuals for employees and customers

EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY INFORMATION

The career outlook for computer support specialists is positive. By 2022, the number of jobs is projected to increase by 17%, a faster-than-average growth rate* when compared with all other U.S. careers.

Nationwide, median annual earnings of computer support specialists were $54,960, or $24.22 per hour* in May 2014.

The industries employing the most computer support specialists in 2014 were:
- Computer systems design and related services
- Educational services (state, local, and private)
- Information
- Finance and insurance
- Telecommunications
- Wholesale trade

* Data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

THE PROGRAM

Because East Central College is a Cisco Networking Academy, it is able to offer specially-designed curriculum for training technicians on this equipment. Upon completion, students are prepared to take the CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) exam and also the Network+ exam, CompTIA’s certification.

The academic plan focuses on a wide range of fundamentals and product-specific technology such as database and application software. Classes in networking technology, operating systems and client-server development tools prepare students for employment in several areas of the computer technology and information field. ECC graduates with their AAS degree or certificate in computer information systems have the knowledge and skills they need to obtain industry-recognized certification.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

To enter the program, students must have completed:
- High school diploma or the equivalent (documentation must be sent to the registration office)
- Application for admission
- A placement test as specified by the college (please note: some coursework requires minimum placement results)

TRANSFER OPTIONS

The AAS degree is designed for students seeking employment immediately upon graduation. However, many of the credits, particularly the general education electives received with this degree, may qualify as transfer credit by four-year schools.

Please note that these decisions are made solely by the bachelor degree-granting institution, not East Central College. Students seeking to transfer are advised to contact the institution of their choice before beginning a program or reviewing other degrees and coursework offered through ECC.

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East Central College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400 Chicago, Illinois 60602-2504 800-621-7440

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UNION
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WASHINGTON
636-239-0598

WWW.EASTCENTRAL.EDU
## Program of Study

This program of study is for a full-time student; part-time study is also available. Please contact an academic advisor for full course options. For the most current academic schedule (which is subject to change), visit the college Web site at www.eastcentral.edu.

AAS program (66-68 credit hours)
A - Course that is also a part of the Certificate of Achievement program (34 credit hours)
A* - Must take at least 12 credits from these courses in addition to the “A” courses to earn the Certificate of Achievement
N - Course that is also a part of the Network Technician Certificate of Achievement program (34 credit hours)

### Year 1

#### Fall Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
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<td>CS 1183</td>
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#### Spring Semester

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<tr>
<td>CS 1163</td>
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<td>CS 1233</td>
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<td>EN 1343</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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*recommended humanities course options

CT 1103 Public Speaking
CT 1003 Oral Communication

### Year 2

#### Fall Semester

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#### Spring Semester

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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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### Three-hour science course options

BI 1203 Introduction to Life Science
ES 1023 Introduction to Environmental Science
GL 1103 Introduction to Physical Geology

Please Note: A four to five-hour science course with a lab is also an option for students. Those who do so must also take the SC 1000 Lab Safety for Students course.