



Major to Career Guide

Computer Information Systems

Major: Business Administration Emphasis: Computer Information Systems
Degree: Bachelor of Science

Introduction

Computer systems analysts plan and develop new computer systems or devise ways to apply existing systems to processes still completed manually or by some less efficient method. They may design whole new systems, including hardware and software, or add a single new software application to harness more of the computer's power. Analysts begin an assignment by discussing the data processing problem with managers and users to determine the exact nature of the problem. Much time is spent clearly defining the goals of the system so that it can be broken down into separate programmable procedures. Computer analysts then use techniques such as mathematical model building, sampling, and cost accounting to plan the system. Once the design has been developed, system analysts prepare charts and diagrams that describe it in terms that managers and other users can understand. They also may prepare a cost-benefit and return-on-investment analysis to help management decide whether the proposed systems will be satisfactory.

What are some of the job tasks?

- Analyze problems or information needs
- Coordinate data collection
- Design and maintain computer systems
- Establish rules pertaining to data base security
- Examine computer input and output
- Organize data into usable databases
- Plan distribution of information
- Prepare computer program logic flow charts
- Train and assist operators
- Verify accuracy of computer programs
- Write, debug, and test computer programs

What are some desirable personal qualities?

- Work accurately with detail
- An aptitude for math
- Communicate effectively both written and orally
- Analyze, compare, and interpret facts and figures quickly
- Concentrate for long periods of time
- Work both independently and as part of a team

What are some potential occupations?

Application Programmer
Computer Consultant
Database Specialist
Data Communications Specialist
Data Entry Operator
Information Manager
Maintenance Programmer
Management Information Systems Analyst
Operations Research Analyst
Programming Manager
Robotics Programmer
Security Systems Analyst
Software Engineer
Software Services Representative
Systems Analyst/Technical Writer
Systems Support Specialist
Technical Writer
Telecommunications Specialist

Who hires?

- Banking Industry
- Biotechnology Companies
- Business/Industry
- Educational Institutions
- Entertainment Industry
- Environmental Companies
- Insurance Agencies
- Manufacturing Firms
- Medical Technology Labs
- Pharmaceutical Companies
- Telecommunications Companies
- Transportation Agencies

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