

Nontraditional Careers in IT

Women:

- > Computer Hardware Engineer
- > Computer Programmer
- > Computer Software Engineer, Systems Software
- > Network and Computer Systems Administrator

For a complete list of nontraditional careers for men and women in information technology, refer to the career charts in the 2010 *Utah Student Guide to Career Planning*.

“Most people don’t understand computers at all or they’re way challenged by them, so it seems kind of cool to be able to do something like this. Most people want to be doctors or physical therapists, but Web design just seems a lot cooler to me for a career choice.”

Danielle Knapp, Digital Media student

“I was really into computers when I was little and I always liked art, and so it was just natural to combine the two and use my art skills with the computers. The fact that a lot of boys came to computer tech really didn’t bother me. I just thought it was a new opportunity to make new friends and get to know other people.”

Chelsea Richards, Web Development student

Break free of the traditions and barriers that limit your choices.
What’s stopping you? Be different! Try something new!
Is a nontraditional career in your future?

Talk to your school counselor
about a nontraditional career in information technology.

www.UtahCTE.org



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Information Technology

PROVIDING THE FOUNDATION FOR UTAH’S HIGH-TECH WORKFORCE



Break free of the barriers that limit your career choices.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION



Nontraditional Careers

Did you know a nontraditional career is any occupation in which women or men comprise 25 percent or less of its total employment?

Nontraditional jobs are attractive because they generally offer higher entry-level wages.

Choosing a nontraditional career path can mean:

- > Greater job satisfaction.
- > Higher wages and better benefits.
- > Great advancement opportunities.
- > Economic self-sufficiency.
- > Broader job opportunities.
- > Freedom to pursue a career related to your interests and abilities.

BREAK with tradition and explore a nontraditional career!

A Career in Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) careers involve the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration services. The IT industry is a dynamic and entrepreneurial working environment that continues to have a revolutionary impact on the economy and society. IT careers are available in every sector of the economy, and nine out of ten IT workers are found in banks, insurance companies, manufacturing plants, or other non-IT business.

There are many opportunities for women in the field of IT. Below are the six Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways in Information Technology Education:

- Database Development and Admin.
- Digital Media (Multimedia)
- Network Systems
- Programming/Software Development
- Technical Support
- Web Development and Administration

CTE Pathways

High school is a great time to try out a wide range of Career Pathways by enrolling in CTE courses. As an added bonus, you will be developing work-related skills that can be put to immediate and profitable use.

CTE provides courses and Pathways consistent with industry training and certification, thus providing depth and meaning for both visual and hands-on learning and education that can be applied in today's job market.

Through participation in CTE, Information Technology (IT) Education can guide you as you take courses in your Pathway.

By taking Information Technology courses, you will learn the latest in computer technology with hands-on application. You will also gain an important foundation of knowledge and skills necessary for continuing your education in IT.

Employment and Outlook

Information Technology is the field of the future and is rapidly growing, with the demand for skilled individuals high. Because our global economy is driven by technology, multimedia has become one of the most in-demand fields around. Nationally, high-skill jobs are growing at three times the rate of other jobs.¹

There are over 4,200 high-tech companies in Utah with a combined payroll of \$3.6 billion. Utah has a robust high-tech environment, where many high-tech companies have been founded or are headquartered. These companies include Pixar, Omniture, WordPerfect, Novell, IM Flash, Iomega, and Atari.²

Training and education beyond high school are important for success in a career in Information Technology. Whether you choose a one-year certificate, a two-year associate or technical degree, a four-year bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree will depend on your career path. **The choice is yours!**

The percentage of women employed in the IT workforce is declining instead of growing.³

UtahFutures

Log on to UtahFutures.org to learn more about a career in IT. From the home page, click on the "occupations" option to find an occupation that interests you and link to the description for that occupation. Check out employment opportunities, working conditions, outlook, skills and abilities, and wages for your selected occupation.

Is a nontraditional career in your future?



¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

² Utah Cyber Symposium 2010, <http://utahcyberlaw.com/useful-details>

³ Zeldman.com, "Women in Web Design: Just the Stats, April 2007," <http://tiny.cc/8w4w1>