

CIT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE



Overview

The Information Technology Specialist Associate of Applied Science (AAS) program offers students a robust foundation in IT principles and hands-on technical skills, preparing them for diverse roles in the rapidly growing field of information technology. The program begins with foundational courses that cover critical topics such as hardware and software support, operating systems, networking, and cybersecurity. After completing the foundational courses, students will choose one of three specialization areas to tailor their education to specific career goals:

- **Systems Administration:** Focuses on managing and maintaining IT systems, servers, and virtualization technologies to ensure operational efficiency and reliability.
- **Cloud Administration:** Emphasizes deploying, configuring, and managing cloud-based infrastructures and services, preparing students for roles in the dynamic world of cloud computing.
- **Cisco Networking and Security:** Provides in-depth knowledge of network design, implementation, and security, with a focus on Cisco technologies and certifications.

This flexible structure allows students to gain broad IT expertise while also specializing in a field that aligns with their interests and career aspirations. Graduates of this program will be well-prepared for immediate entry into the workforce or for transfer into advanced programs, such as the Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity or related fields.

Industry Certifications

Students in the Information Technology Specialist AAS program are prepared to pursue a variety of industry-recognized certifications that validate their skills and enhance their employability. Certifications may include:

- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA Network+
- CompTIA Security+
- CompTIA Cloud+
- CompTIA Server+
- CompTIA Linux+

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)

These certifications are widely recognized in the IT industry and are highly valued by employers.

Career opportunities

Graduates of the Information Technology Specialist AAS program are prepared to pursue a variety of roles depending on their chosen specialization:

- **Systems Administration Specialization:**
 - IT Support Specialist
 - Systems Administrator
 - Server Support Technician
 - Network Server Administrator
- **Cloud Administration Specialization:**
 - Cloud Systems Administrator
 - Cloud Support Specialist
 - Cloud Operations Technician
 - Cloud Security Specialist
 - Junior Cloud Architect
- **Cisco Networking and Security Specialization:**
 - Network Security Analyst
 - Cisco Network Administrator

These roles span a variety of industries, including technology, healthcare, finance, education, and government, where IT expertise is essential for operational success.

Earning Potential

Cloud Systems Administrator (<https://www.salary.com/research/salary/recruiting/cloud-administrator-salary/houston-tx/>): \$130,530 per year¹

Computer Network Support Specialist (<https://www.salary.com/research/salary/posting/computer-network-support-specialists-salary/houston-tx/>): \$123,135 per year¹

Cloud Security Specialist (<https://www.salary.com/research/salary/position/cloud-security-specialist-salary/houston-tx/>): \$70,561 per year¹

IT Support Specialist (<https://www.salary.com/research/salary/listing/it-support-specialist-salary/houston-tx/>): \$137,584 per year¹

Systems Administrator (<https://www.salary.com/research/salary/listing/systems-administrator-salary/houston-tx/>): \$116,340 per year¹

Network Server Administrator (<https://www.salary.com/research/salary/position/network-server-administrator-salary/houston-tx/>): \$111,289 per year¹

¹ Source: salary.com (<https://www.salary.com/>), average salary for Houston, Tx as of May 1, 2025

For more information, students may contact Central Campus, 281-991-2608; North Campus, 281-998-6350, x7242; or South Campus, 281-922-3424.

Campuses

Central Campus

North Campus

South Campus