



**Gaston College**  
**Computer Information Technology General Certificate**

**Occupational Outlook Handbook Information ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov))**

**Education and training.** The level and type of education that employers require reflects changes in technology. Training requirements for computer systems analysts vary depending on the job, but many employers prefer applicants who have a college degree. Relevant work experience also is very important. Advancement opportunities are good for those with the necessary skills and experience. Employers often scramble to find workers capable of implementing the newest technologies. Workers with formal education or experience in information security, for example, are currently in demand because of the growing use of computer networks, which must be protected from threats.

Despite the preference for technical degrees, however, people who have degrees in other majors may find employment as systems analysts if they also have technical skills. Courses in computer science or related subjects combined with practical experience can qualify people for some jobs in the occupation. Employers generally look for people with expertise relevant to the job. For example, systems analysts who wish to work for a bank should have some expertise in finance, and systems analysts who wish to work for a hospital should have some knowledge of health management.

**Other qualifications.** Employers usually look for people who have broad knowledge and experience related to computer systems and technologies, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. In addition, because they often deal with a number of tasks simultaneously, the ability to concentrate and pay close attention to detail is important. Although these workers sometimes work independently, they frequently work in teams on large projects. Therefore, they must have good interpersonal skills and be able to communicate effectively with computer personnel, users, and other staff who may have no technical background.

**Contact Information**

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