



Educational Topic

Computer Specialist

Related Job Titles:

Systems Programmer, Applications Programmer, Computer Programmer, Systems Administrator

Job Description:

Computer Specialists write, test and manage computer programs (detailed instructions for computers). They break down each computer task into a series of steps the computer can follow. They then use a computer language to write these instructions. After writing the program, they test it to make sure the computer follows the steps correctly and they fix any problems they find. Computer programmers work in offices and spend most of their time on the computer.

Interests / Abilities:

- Do you enjoy working with math and technology?
- Are you good at reasoning and logic?
- Do you pay close attention to details?
- Do you keep working at a problem until you find a solution?
- Do you work well under pressure?
- Are you imaginative and creative?
- Do you express yourself well when speaking to others?

Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Math
- Science (physics)
- Computer programming

Education / Training Needed:

The minimum education required for this position is a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Physical Science or a similar subject from an accredited college or university. It is helpful to have experience with computers from internships or summer jobs. Since Computer Science changes quickly, all Computer Programmers must keep their skills up-to-date by seeking training throughout their career.

Areas of expertise:

- *Applications programming*: write software to handle specific jobs in an organization or business
- *Systems programming*: manage the use of computer systems software so that communication on a network works smoothly

