INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CYBERSECURITY & DIGITAL MEDIA
CAREER GUIDE

Careers in information technology and cybersecurity are among the fastest growing job fields in Kansas. As the world and technology become more complex, job opportunities and earning potential in these areas will continue to grow. Use this guide to decide if this fast-paced career field with innovation around every corner is for you. Then visit **LevelUpKS.com** and complete the form to find out if you can earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

BY THE NUMBERS

AVERAGE SALARY
$26.68/hour | $55,454/year

DEMAND
HIGH

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
Certificate to Associate Degree
(less than 1 year to 2 years)

EDUCATION LOCATIONS
20+ community colleges and technical schools, online and in-person program options

HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS
IT & CYBERSECURITY
- IT Service Desk Technician
- Security Specialist
- Software Developer
- Database Administrator
- IT Support Specialist
- Network Specialist
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Computer Applications Specialist

DIGITAL MEDIA
- Digital Media Specialist
- Web Designer

Read the guide to learn more about each position.

IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?
If this sounds like you, you may be a good fit.
- Enjoy working with technology and learn new technology and systems quickly
- Are curious and adaptable
- Have strong communication skills
- Like the option to work in a variety of industries
- Are interested in potentially working remote

TYPES OF EDUCATION
- **Certificates** - short, skill-focused programs
- **Associate Degrees** - general education and specific training
- **Apprenticeships** - on-the-job training with education

LEVELUP
K A N S A S

Information courtesy of:

Kansas Department of Labor

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & CYBERSECURITY CAREERS
CERTIFICATES

GET STARTED IN 1 YEAR OR LESS

IT SERVICE DESK TECHNICIAN

Average Salary: $16.53/hour | $35,000/year
Education Options: Certificate
Time to complete education: Less than 1 year to 1 year

IT Service Desk Technicians interact directly with customers to troubleshoot technological issues and provide solutions. Desk Technicians document complaints and feedback for future reference. They may refer unresolved issues to appropriate departments for the most effective solutions.
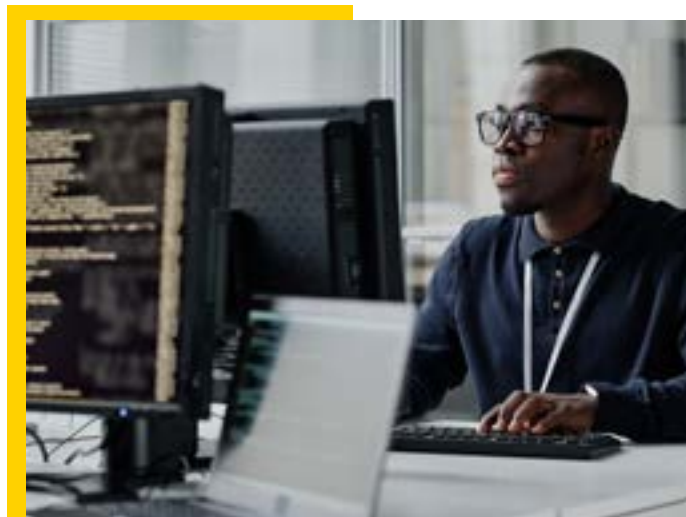
IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Average Salary: $19.23/hour | $40,000/year
Education Options: Certificate to Associate Degree
Time to complete education: Less than 1 year to 2 years

IT Support Specialists diagnose and repair technological issues. They communicate with co-workers and customers to provide solutions for technology improvement. Specialists are responsible for maintaining smooth technological functions in any given situation.

SECURITY SPECIALIST

Average Salary: $26.32/hour | $50,000/year
Education Required: Certificate
Time to complete education: 1-2 years

Security Specialists work to ensure the confidentiality of sensitive data and prevent security breaches. They perform assessments to identify possible security threats and create firewalls and passwords to protect data systems. Specialists may be required to train other employees on proper data protection.

Listed salaries are approximate and intended as estimates only. Actual offers may differ based on education, geographic location, economic conditions, and other factors.

READY TO GO?

Visit **LevelUpKS.com** and complete the form to find out if you can earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

Level Up Kansas is a free service for Kansans 18+

LEVEL**UP**
K A N S A S

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & CYBERSECURITY CAREERS
CERTIFICATES AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES

GET STARTED IN 1-2 YEARS

NETWORK SPECIALIST

Average Salary: $24.67/hour | $54,745/year
Education Required: Certificate
Time to complete education: 1 year – 2 years

Network specialists design, install, manage and troubleshoot computer networks, ensuring they run efficiently and securely. They handle tasks such as monitoring network performance, resolving connectivity issues, and implementing security measures to protect against cyber threats.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST

Average Salary: $32.00/hour | $66,571/year
Education Required: Associate Degree
Time to complete education: 2 years

Computer Systems Analysts improve and implement new software and system designs. They may research incoming technologies and consider possible implementation. Once a new software is introduced to their company, they are required to train employees and write instruction manuals on proper technological operation.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

Average Salary: $28.85/hour | $60,000/year
Education Options: Associate Degree
Time to complete education: 2 years

Software Developers design, program, and improve software applications. They may be required to meet with clients to gather preferences for an application's final design. Developers test and adjust their application's specific code to ensure the desired level of functionality.

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Average Salary: $32.25/hour | $67,072/year
Education Options: Certificate or Associate Degree
Time to complete education: 1-2 years

Database Administrators oversee database updates, maintenance, design, security, and growth. They are responsible for archiving data, initiating data changes, and training others in database management. They may be required to assign specific tasks to other technology experts.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS SPECIALIST

Average Salary: $33.12/hour | $68,890/year
Education Options: Associate Degree
Time to complete education: 2 years

Computer Applications Specialists schedule appointments, answer phone calls, provide technical information to customers, install software, and repair computer equipment. They use their research skills to collect data and prepare important documents for presentations to superiors.

READY TO GO?

Visit **LevelUpKS.com** and complete the form to find out if you can earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

Level Up Kansas is a free service for Kansans 18+

LEVELUP
K A N S A S

DIGITAL MEDIA CAREERS
CERTIFICATES AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES

GET STARTED IN 1-2 YEARS

DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

Average Salary: **$23.56/hour | $49,005/year**
Education Required: **Certificate or Associate Degree**
Time to complete education: **1-2 years**

Digital Media Specialists design advertising content aligned with a company's goals to attract new customers. They ensure their company's continuing relevance in the public eye by implementing social media platforms and researching current trends.

WEB DESIGNER

Average Salary: **$30.41/hour | $63,258/year**
Education Required: **Associate Degree**
Time to complete education: **2 years**

Web Designers use photos, text, and other design elements to create and improve websites. They focus on the website layout and aesthetic to ensure positive viewer feedback. Designers also collaborate with clients to review and refine website appearance and features.

READY TO GO?

Visit **LevelUpKS.com** and complete the form to find out if you can earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

Level Up Kansas is a free service for Kansans 18+

LEVEL**UP**
K A N S A S

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CYBERSECURITY & DIGITAL MEDIA CAREERS

JOBS AT A GLANCE

CAREER PATH	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY	LESS THAN ONE YEAR CERTIFICATE	1–2 YEAR CERTIFICATE	2 YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREE
IT Service Desk Technician	$16.53	$35,000	✓	✓	
IT Support Specialist	$19.23	$40,000	✓	✓	✓
Security Specialist	$24.57	$50,000		✓	✓
Network Specialist	$26.32	$54,745		✓	✓
Software Developer	$28.85	$60,000			✓
Computer Systems Analyst	$32.00	$66,571			✓
Database Administrator	$32.25	$67,072		✓	✓
Computer Applications Specialist	$33.12	$68,890			✓
Digital Media Specialist	$23.56	$49,005		✓	✓
Web Designer	$30.41	$63,258			✓

(Rows IT Service Desk Technician through Computer Applications Specialist are categorized under INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/CYBERSECURITY; Digital Media Specialist and Web Designer are categorized under DIGITAL MEDIA.)

READY TO GO BUT NOT SURE WHERE TO START?
We're here to help. Level Up Kansas is a **FREE** service for Kansans 18+. We provide unbiased information about certificates and 2-year degree programs at Kansas community colleges and technical colleges. We can also provide resources to help you find existing scholarships and financial aid opportunities that may be available to you.

To get started, visit LevelUpKS.com and complete the form to work with our free navigator service. We'll help you figure out your next steps.

STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
Don't give up. Check out the career guides for Healthcare, Manufacturing, Construction Trades, Early Childhood Education, and Agriculture on our website.

LEVELUP KANSAS