Program Overview

The mission of Central Ohio Technical College is to meet the technical education and training needs of students and employers in the area.

Information Technology

IT Specialist Option

Program Summary
COTC awards the Associate of Applied Business Degree to graduates of the IT Specialist Option. The program is designed to:

- Prepare students for entry-level positions in the information technology field
- Upgrade computer language, customer service, and hardware skills when students seek career advancement.

The IT Specialist Option offers hands-on courses which include software (programming languages and applications) and hardware (PC troubleshooting and networking) as well as User Support and IT Project Management. The curriculum includes:

- Database (Microsoft Access, and Microsoft SQL Server)
- C++ (language)
- Internet Programming & Design (Web pages – HTML5, CSS, JavaScript)
- IT Project Management
- Operating Systems and Security
- Java (language – includes Android App development)
- User Support Concepts
- Networking
- PC Hardware (Maintenance and Troubleshooting)
- Computer Applications for Technology Specialists

The courses use state-of-the-art applications and techniques, using computers connected to the internet and campus intranet. Much of the work in the software and User Support courses can be completed on students’ personal computers via internet connections or by downloading appropriate software (available for free via Microsoft’s Dreamspark program; free open-source resources; and textbook publishers’ resources.) The troubleshooting and networking courses require hands-on projects during on campus lab time. Carefully planned projects are an integral part of the courses, such that students can graduate with confidence in their IT skills.

Students begin the sequence of IT Specialist courses autumn semester. However, students beginning any other semester have the advantage of gaining a head start. They can take other courses in the IT Specialist curriculum, such as business, composition, math, humanities, and science courses. The business and core general education courses prepare students with the broader perspective that is necessary for success in today’s business world.

Because many Information Technology students prefer to work while pursuing their degree, students may enroll part-time or full-time. Currently, the IT Specialist courses are only offered on the Newark Campus. Other required courses are offered at all four of our locations. Most classes are offered during daytime and evening hours, Monday through Friday. Some classes are offered during the weekend or online.

Learning Outcomes
After completing the plan of study the student will be able to:

- Perform end user support including identifying and implementing solutions to user requests.
- Analyze technical requirements to determine resource requirements and the impact the solution will have on an organization.
- Design, plan, budget and propose an IT project for an identified need within a specific scope.
- Install technical hardware and software including network, database and security components.
- Perform routine maintenance to maintain the currency of an operating system, network, database and security needs.
- Identify and resolve technical problems using trouble-shooting and research techniques.

Career Opportunities
Business, industry, government, and hospitals have a continuing need for trained technicians in the IT field, with the ability to support users, and help setup and maintain computers, equipment and networks. COTC graduates are prepared to meet that need because they have designed and implemented solutions to a wide-variety of programming, application, troubleshooting, planning, user support, and networking problems in a hands-on lab environment. COTC graduates can expect to find employment as:

- Computer call-center associate
- Computer sales associate
- Entry-level software developer
- Data-processing technician
- Help-desk technician
- Network administrator
- Entry-level IT project manager

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics (http://www.bls.gov/) shows an employment increase of 8%-22% in this area.

See reverse side for more information.
Transferability
Many COTC graduates choose to continue their education by pursuing a bachelor's degree at other nearby four-year institutions. DeVry, Franklin, Mount Vernon Nazarene, Ohio Dominican, Ohio University, and Otterbein universities work closely with COTC for ease of transfer credit.

COTC shares its Newark campus with The Ohio State University at Newark. Many of the credits earned in the Programming and Software Development degree program apply toward the Bachelor’s in Technical Education and Training offered by Ohio State. There are two tracks for this degree. One prepares graduates to teach in technical programs at the secondary level such as those at C-TEC in Licking County. The other track prepares graduates to become corporate trainers in business and industry. Coursework can be completed at the Newark campus or via distance education to complete this degree.

Important Student Characteristics
- Potential for good verbal and written communications
- Basic computer skills helpful
- Detail-oriented
- Enjoyment of problem solving
- Reasoning/logic skills

How do I Start?
If you are a new student, you should apply online at cotc.edu. If you are a current or returning COTC student, contact one of the Gateway Offices listed below, send an e-mail to cotcadmissions@cotc.edu or connect with the Gateway website at http://www.cotc.edu/current-students/Gateway/Pages/Gateway.aspx

Newark Campus 740.366.9222
800.963.9275 Ext. 222
Coshocton Campus 740.622.1408
Knox Campus 740.392.2526
Pataskala Campus 740.755.7090

For specific questions regarding the Information Technology - IT Specialist Option program contact:
- Connie Philips, Associate Professor, Lead Faculty for Information Technology at cphilips@cotc.edu, or
- Dr. Fred Ghoorkhanian, Associate Professor of Information Technology at fghoorkh@cotc.edu, or
- Tom Jarosinski, Associate Professor of Information Technology at tjarosin@cotc.edu.

Faculty Advisors can be reached during the academic year from August to May.

Accreditation/ Membership
Central Ohio Technical College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. Phone: 312.263.0456 ncahigherlearningcommission.org

COTC is also a member of the American Association for Higher Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Council on Education, the American Technical Education Association, Inc., the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges and the Ohio College Association.

Non-Discrimination Statement
Central Ohio Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, color, veteran status, and/or disability. General information, questions, concerns, or complaints related to these matters are to be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. John Berry, or designee, Warner Center Suite 226, Ohio State Newark/COTC, 1179 University Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055-1797 (740-364-9578) or ADA/504 Coordinator, Connie Zang, at the same location.