

# NCTC Advising FAQ for Information Technology and Computer Science

## [Career and Technical Programs](#)

### 1. What degrees and certificates are offered?

Below is a list of each area of study, and the degrees and certificates offered. All certificates do transfer directly into their related AAS (Associate of Applied Science) degree plan.

**Engineering Technology:** <https://www.nctc.edu/career-technical-education/engineering-technology.html>. *Engineering Technology is for students wanting to pursue a career in drafting.*

#### **Computer Information Systems & Technology:**

- Associate of Applied Science – Computer Information Systems & Technology: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/computer-information-systems-technology/computer-information-systems-technology-degree.html>
- Certificate – Computer Information Systems & Technology: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/computer-information-systems-technology/computer-information-systems-technology-certificate.html>
- Certificate – Web Development: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/web-development/web-development-certificate.html>
- Occupation Skills Award – Computer Help Desk (apply under Computer Information Technology): <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/computer-information-systems-technology/computer-help-desk-occupational-skills-award.html>

#### **Computer Networking:**

- Associate of Applied Science – Computer Networking Systems: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/networking-technology/networking-technology-degree-network-operating-systems-major.html>
- Certificate – Network Operating Systems: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/networking-technology/networking-technology-network-operating-systems-certificate.html>
- Certificate – CISCO Networking Systems: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/networking-technology/networking-technology-certificate-CISCO-systems.html>
- Certificate – CISCO Basic (apply under CISCO Networking Systems Cert): <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/networking-technology/CISCO-basic-level-1-workforce-certificate.html>

**Cyber Security:**

- Associate of Applied Science – Cyber Security: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/cyber-security/cyber-security-degree.html>
- Certificate – Cyber Security: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/cyber-security/cyber-security-level-1-workforce-certificate.html>

**Database Management:**

- Associate of Applied Science – Database Management: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/database-management-administration/database-administration-degree.html>
- Certificate – Database Management: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/database-management-administration/database-management-certificate.html>

**Game Design and Application Programming:**

- Associate of Applied Science – Game Design and Application Programming: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/game-design-application-programming/gaming-application-programming-degree.html>
- Certificate – Game Design: <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/curricula-career-technical-education/game-design-application-programming/gaming-application-programming-degree.html>

**Computer Science Pathway – Associate of Arts:** <http://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/computer-science.pdf>

**2. How long does it take to earn a certificate or degree?**

The Occupational Skills Award (OSA) can be earned in one semester (only applies to Computer Help Desk), a Certificate can be earned in one year, and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) can be completed in as little as 2 years. Students, however, may set their own pace and often do take longer to complete these programs.

**3. Will this program help me obtain necessary industry certifications I need to be successful in the workplace?**

Yes, some courses will help you prepare for industry certifications, however these certification exams will require prep outside of the course itself. Examples of certification exams include CISCO, Comp TIA A+, Security +, and Network +, Adobe, and Microsoft. However, you do not earn your industry certifications through your NCTC courses. The exams for each industry certification must be taken outside of your classes.

#### **4. Can these programs be completed online and/or are they campus specific?**

For Computer Information Technology and Database Administration, courses can often be taken online. However, it may require a combination of online and on-campus courses, depending on course offerings each semester. Please be aware that these programs are not offered as fully in-person, and will require some online courses.

For Networking, Cyber Security, and Game Design, some courses may be taken online, but you will find many courses need to be taken on campus. Game Design is on the Corinth Campus, while Networking and Cyber Security have classes between both the Corinth and Flower Mound Campuses, with the majority of Cyber Security courses being held in Flower Mound.

#### **5. Will the degree transfer to a 4-year university?**

Yes! The Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) will transfer to several North Texas universities through AAS to BAAS transfer programs. This applies to all of the AAS degree listed above. For more information and a list of participating institutions, please review the AAS to BAAS Guided Pathways: [http://ntxccc.org/pathways?field\\_aas\\_school\\_tid%5B%5D=7](http://ntxccc.org/pathways?field_aas_school_tid%5B%5D=7)

Certificates do not transfer directly to a university, but they do all feed directly into the correlating AAS degree program. Then, once you have completed the AAS, you may transfer into a BAAS or BAAT program at a university.

#### **6. Computer Science, Business Computer Information Systems, or one of our AAS programs in Information Technology?**

This decision is dependent on the Career field you are wanting to go into, and in some cases, there is more than one way to get there.

Any one of AAS programs is an excellent way to get to started with a career in those IT fields, with the opportunity to transfer into a Bachelor's of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) program at a university. With these programs, you have the option of going for an emphasis in either Business or a more Computer Science based Information Technology programs. For more information and a list of participating institutions, please review the AAS to BAAS Guided Pathways: [http://ntxccc.org/pathways?field\\_aas\\_school\\_tid%5B%5D=7](http://ntxccc.org/pathways?field_aas_school_tid%5B%5D=7)

However, if you are interested in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Software Engineering students you will most likely follow our Computer Science pathway, versus completing one of our AAS programs. Computer Science has an emphasis on advanced programming, using languages like C++, C#, Java, and Python. This pathway will also help you

focus on any advanced math and science pre-requisites required by these majors, most often including Calculus I and II and Linear Algebra, along with Engineering Physics I and II.

Business Computer Information Systems is another degree option for those that want a program that focuses specifically on managing computer systems and data in the corporate world, giving you both a background in Business and IT. For this degree option you would follow our Business Pathway at NCTC and then complete your IT training at the university level.

## 7. Engineering Pathway or Engineering Technology?

The AS Engineering pathway is for students who are planning on transferring to a university in either Engineering, Engineering Technology, or Architecture.

Engineering Technology AAS (Associate of Applied Science) and Certificate programs are for students wanting to pursue a career in drafting. This major *may* be applicable for students who are interested in Architecture or Engineering—depends on the student's career/transfer goals.

## 8. Is Financial Aid available for these majors/programs?

Absolutely! As long as you are staying on plan and in a Certificate or AAS major (Occupational Skills Awards are not aid eligible, however your advisor can help you declare the related Certificate major). You will work with your advisor to create a plan that works best for your graduation and transfer requirements.

## 9. Which [NCTC advisor](#) or faculty can I contact for more information?

Lee Ann Rayburn

*Advisor*

**Email:** [lruburn@nctc.edu](mailto:lruburn@nctc.edu)

**Phone:** (972) 899-8336

Franklin Haskins

*Advisor*

**Email:** [fhaskins@nctc.edu](mailto:fhaskins@nctc.edu)

**Phone:** (972) 899-8400, ext. 8506

Susan Svane

*Division Chair Information Technology*

**Email:** [ssvane@nctc.edu](mailto:ssvane@nctc.edu)

**Phone:** (940) 498-6438

Zachary Ouchley

*Instructor-Engineering Technology*

**Email:** [jouchley@nctc.edu](mailto:jouchley@nctc.edu)

**Phone:** (940) 498-6538

**10. Where can I access the recording of the Information Technology and Computer Science Q&A session with NCTC advisors and faculty?**

Just click the image below or visit [NCTC Student Life on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/lifeatnctc) to locate any number of great videos!

