



**Network Systems** is a program of study within the **Information Technology Career Cluster**. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are 16 Career Clusters.

Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The Information Technology Career Cluster involves the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration services.

There are four programs of study in this cluster:

- Information Support and Services
- Interactive Media
- Network Systems
- Programming and Software Development

## Employment Outlook

The job outlook for **Data Communications Analysts** is excellent. Nationally, the number of jobs for data communications analysts is expected to increase much faster than average through the year 2016. Growth will be driven by continued advancements in technology. Nationally, salaries range from \$41,660 to \$110,920 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009). The average starting salary in Texas for data communications analysts is \$42,867 (Texas Workforce Commission, 2009).

## Using this brochure

Inside you will find a suggested **program of study** that has lots of helpful information. The model is an example of the types of courses and extended learning experiences that are important for the **Network Systems Program of Study**. Use this model to plan your course schedule, educational experiences, and career choices.

At the top of the model, you will find **career goals** with the corresponding **O\*NET code**. The O\*NET code is an official classification of jobs and can be used to locate career-related information. Your teacher, counselor or media center should be able to help you locate further information.

The upper left side of the model highlights the **core courses and career-related electives** in high school that will help prepare you for your career goal. This model is based upon the Recommended High School Graduation Plan and can easily be adapted for the Distinguished High School Graduation Plan.

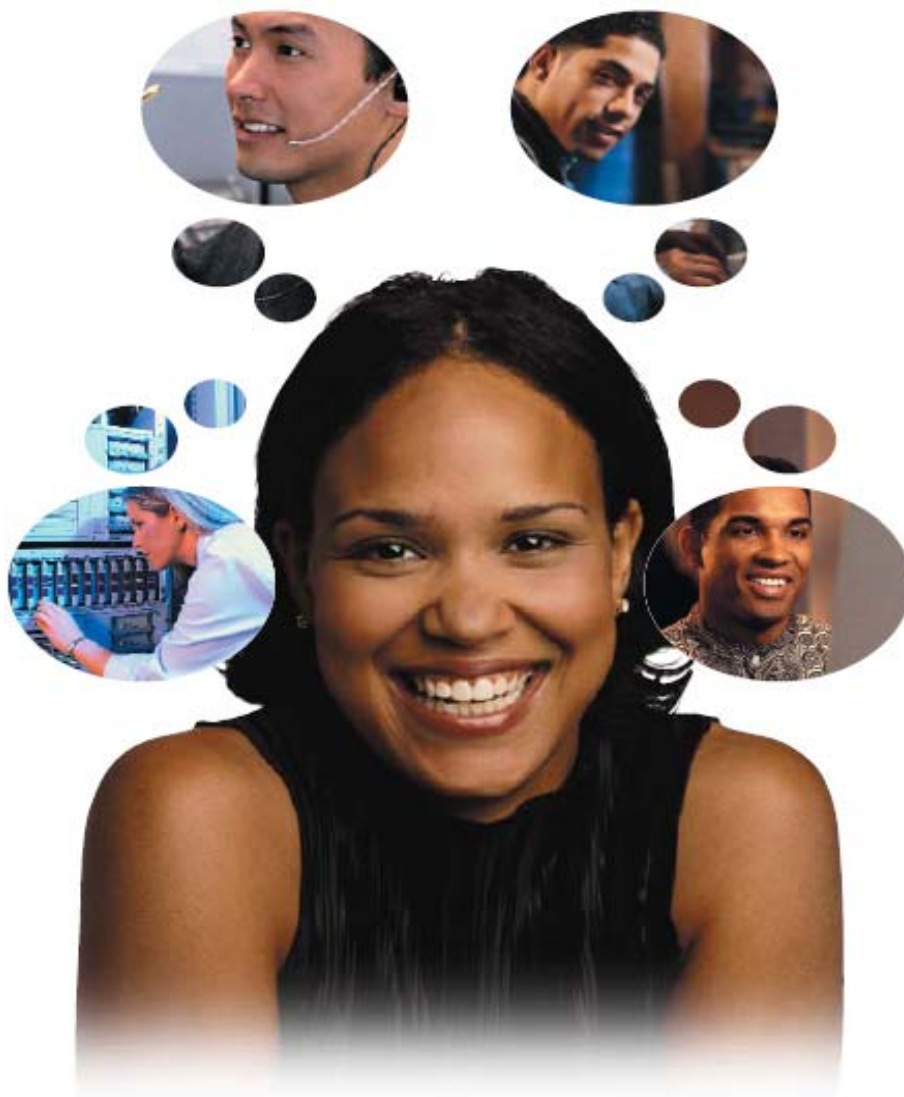
The upper right side of the model highlights examples of **extended learning experiences** that can enhance your knowledge and skills for your career goal. You will find examples of curricular activities, such as participation in Career and Technical Student Organizations like BPA or FBLA, career learning experiences, service learning activities, and extracurricular activities.

The lower left side of the model indicates **industry licensures/certifications** and **on-the-job training experiences** that are available, some can be completed while still in high school. This section also highlights the various levels of **postsecondary education** and examples of **career options** available to you once you have completed that level of education and training.

The lower right side of the model contains examples of **professional associations** available for network systems professionals. Many of these organizations allow for preprofessional membership while enrolled in a postsecondary program. Most of these organizations have websites which can be easily located by entering the organization name in most search engines.

# Thinking about a career in Data Communications?

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<http://www.achievetexas.org>

The Network Systems program of study may be for you! Data communication careers are projected to be among the fastest growing industries in the U.S. economy. Employees analyze, design, plan, install, and maintain information technology infrastructures. Look inside to see the suggested coursework and learning opportunities that will prepare you for an exciting and rewarding career.

