

Computer Programmer



About



Create, modify, and test the code, forms, and script that allow computer applications to run. Work from specifications drawn up by software developers or other individuals. May assist software developers by analyzing user needs and designing software solutions. May develop and write computer programs to store, locate, and retrieve specific documents, data, and information.

Education



Most computer programmers have a bachelor's degree; however, some employers hire workers who have an associate's degree. Most programmers get a degree in computer science or a related subject. Programmers who work in specific fields, such as healthcare or accounting, may take classes in that field to supplement their degree in computer programming. In addition, employers value experience, which many students gain through internships.

Most programmers learn a few computer languages while in school. However, a computer science degree gives students the skills needed to learn new computer languages easily. During their classes, students receive hands-on experience writing code, testing programs, fixing errors, and doing many other tasks that they will perform on the job.

To keep up with changing technology, computer programmers may take continuing education and professional development seminars to learn new programming languages or about upgrades to programming languages they already know.

Wages

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, earnings in Pennsylvania is between \$44,450 and \$130,800



Personal Characteristics

ANALYTICAL SKILLS

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS MUST UNDERSTAND COMPLEX INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER TO CREATE COMPUTER CODE

CONCENTRATION

PROGRAMMERS MUST BE ABLE TO WORK AT A COMPUTER, WRITING LINES OF CODE FOR LONG PERIODS

DETAIL ORIENTED

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS MUST CLOSELY EXAMINE THE CODE THEY WRITE BECAUSE A SMALL MISTAKE CAN AFFECT THE ENTIRE COMPUTER PROGRAM

TROUBLESHOOTING SKILLS

AN IMPORTANT PART OF A PROGRAMMER'S JOB IS TO CHECK THE CODE FOR ERRORS AND FIX ANY THEY FIND