IT NETWORK SPECIALIST

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)
Program Code: 10-150-2
Total Credits: 61

The IT Network Specialist program at Mid-State prepares students to administer and support personal computer and network environments. Graduates are able to install, troubleshoot, analyze, and repair networks, as well as maximize network efficiency and security. In this program you will develop skills in the design, installation, administration, and management of computer networks, including wide area networks (WAN) and virtualization technologies. You'll also apply concepts in hands-on projects through project proposals, presenting technical designs, project implementation, and more.

To learn more about this program, visit **mstc.edu/programs**.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

To schedule an appointment with an academic advisor, call 715-422-5300. Academic advisors will travel to other campuses as necessary to accommodate student needs. For more information about advising, visit **mstc.edu/advising.**

NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Complete the following steps to prepare for your New Student Advising appointment with your academic advisor:

- Submit a Mid-State application at **mstc.edu/apply**.
- Send official transcripts to:
  Mid-State Technical College
  Student Services
  500 32nd Street North
  Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at **fafsa.gov**. Mid-State's Financial Aid team is available to assist with your FAFSA application and to answer your financial aid questions. Contact Financial Aid or schedule an appointment at **mstc.edu/financial-aid**.
- Set up student MyCampus account at **mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance**.
- Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at **mstc.edu/advising**.

CAREER PATHWAY

Career pathways help you build your education step by step. Each stage offers one or more credentials that are recognized by employers and lead to real jobs—and you can keep building toward your career goals as you go.

Begin at any point.

Prior Learning

Credit for Prior Learning

- Certifications and Licenses
- Military Experience
- National/Standardized Exams
- Transfer Credit
- Work and Life Experience

Learn about Credit for Prior Learning at **mstc.edu/cpl**.

High School Credit

- High School Dual Credit
- Mid-State Fast Track

Learn about High School Credit at **mstc.edu/dc**.

Certificate

- Communication Essentials (9 Credits)

Technical Diploma

- IT User Support Technician (25 Credits)
  Start Your Career: IT Customer Support Technician, IT Field Technician, IT Operations Support Technician, System Support Technician, Technical Support Analyst

Associate Degree

- IT Network Specialist (61 Credits)
  Start Your Career: Field Services Technician, Network Operations Technician, Network Support Specialist/Administrator, Network Support Technician, System/Server Administrator

Bachelor's Degree

For those interested in continuing their education, Mid-State offers transfer guides with various four-year colleges and universities. For more information, visit **mstc.edu/transfer**.

Other Options

Related Programs: IT Cybersecurity Specialist, IT Software Developer

OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as an IT Network Specialist graduate, to be able to:

- Implement computer networks.
- Implement client systems.
- Implement server operating systems.
- Implement network security components.
- Develop technical documentation.
- Troubleshoot network systems.

TECHNICAL SKILLS ATTAINMENT

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has implemented a requirement that all technical colleges measure outcomes attained by students. This requirement is called Technical Skills Attainment (TSA). The main objective of TSA is to ensure graduates have the technical skills needed by employers. Faculty will let students know when and how the TSA is being assessed in the program.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Visit **mstc.edu/studenthandbook** to view Mid-State's student handbook, which contains information about admissions, enrollment, appeals processes, services for people with disabilities, financial aid, graduation, privacy, Mid-State's Student Code of Conduct, and technology.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The GPS for Student Success course is required for all Mid-State program students and is recommended to be completed before obtaining 12 credits. Some students are exempt from this requirement. Please see your academic advisor for more information.

ADDITIONAL COURSES AS NEEDED

The following courses may be recommended or required if the student does not achieve minimum placement scores.

College Reading and Writing 1
10831104
3 credits
Provides learners with opportunities to develop and expand reading and writing skills to prepare for college-level academic work. Students will employ critical reading strategies to improve comprehension, analysis, and retention of texts. Students will apply the writing process to produce well-developed, coherent, and unified written work.

Pre-Algebra
10834109
3 credits
Provides an introduction to algebra. Includes operations on real numbers, solving linear equations, percent and proportion, and an introduction to polynomials and statistics. Prepares students for elementary algebra and subsequent algebra-related courses.

MULTIPLE MEASURES

Students can place into courses using high school GPA and completed classes. Placement can be determined in the following ways:

- **Multiple Measures Writing (MMW)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school writing courses with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Reading (MMR)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school literature courses with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 1 (MMM_1)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school math (Algebra 1 or equivalent) with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 2 (MMM_2)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school math including Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 1 (MMS_1)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school lab science course with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 2 (MMS_2)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school chemistry with a "C" or better

Past high school and college transcripts are used in making course placement decisions.

SAMPLE FULL-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

IT Network Specialist • 61 Total Credits

Term 16 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150110	Networking I	Yes	3
10151105	Linux	No	3
10154102	IT Essentials	Yes	3
10801198 or 10801196	Speech or Oral/Interpersonal Communication	Yes	3
10804135	Quantitative Reasoning	Yes	3
10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 15 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150111	Networking II	Yes	3
10150120	Server Administration-Beginning	No	3
10150165	Network Server Scripting	No	3
10151110	Information Security 1	Yes	3
10152101	Intro to Programming	Yes	3

Term 15 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150112	Networking III	Yes	3
10150121	Server Administration-Intermediate	No	3
10150130	Virtualization	No	3
10809103	Think Critically & Creatively	Yes	3
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	Yes	3

Term 15 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150142 or 10106106	Information Technology Internship or Quality Customer Service	No or Yes	3
10150113	Networking IV	No	3
10150161	Advanced Networking Projects	No	3
10801195 or 10801136	Written Communication or English Composition 1	Yes	3
10809166	Introduction to Ethics: Theory & Application	Yes	3

Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit **mstc.edu/cpl** or contact your academic advisor for details.
- This curriculum sequence is only for student planning. Actual student schedules will vary depending on course availability.
- Program completion time may vary based on student scheduling and course availability. For details, go to **mstc.edu/schedule**.
- Get the latest updates online at **mstc.edu**.

SAMPLE PART-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

IT Network Specialist • 61 Total Credits

Term 10 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150110	Networking I	Yes	3
10154102	IT Essentials	Yes	3
10152101	Intro to Programming	Yes	3
10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 9 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150111	Networking II	Yes	3
10151110	Information Security 1	Yes	3
10804135	Quantitative Reasoning	Yes	3

Term 6 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10151105	Linux	No	3
10801198 or 10801196	Speech or Oral/Interpersonal Communication	Yes	3

Term 6 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150120	Server Administration-Beginning	No	3
10150165	Network Server Scripting	No	3

Term 9 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150112	Networking III	Yes	3
10150121	Server Administration-Intermediate	No	3
10809103	Think Critically & Creatively	Yes	3

Term 9 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150142 or 10106106	Information Technology Internship or Quality Customer Service	No or Yes	3
10801195 or 10801136	Written Communication or English Composition 1	Yes	3
10809166	Introduction to Ethics: Theory & Application	Yes	3

Term 6 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150130	Virtualization	No	3
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	Yes	3

Term 6 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
10150113	Networking IV	No	3
10150161	Advanced Networking Projects	No	3

Advanced Networking Projects
10150161
3 credits
In this capstone course students complete projects that incorporate networking skills gained from previous terms. Students demonstrate those skills by creating a project proposal, presenting a technical design, and/or implementing a project based on specifications provided by the instructor.
Prerequisites: Networking III 10150112 and Virtualization 10150130

English Composition 1
10801136
3 credits
Learners develop and apply skills in all aspects of the writing process. Through a variety of learning activities and written documents, learners employ rhetorical strategies, plan, organize and revise content, apply critical reading strategies, locate and evaluate information, integrate and document sources, and apply standardized English language conventions.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMW or Accuplacer Writing of 262 or Accuplacer Reading 253 or ACT English score of 20 or ACT Reading 21 or completion of College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 with a "C" or better

GPS for Student Success
10890102
1 credit
Integrate necessary skills for student success by developing an academic plan, identifying interpersonal attributes for success, adopting efficient and effective learning strategies, and utilizing Mid-State resources, policies, and processes. This course is recommended to be completed prior to obtaining 12 credits and is a graduation requirement unless you receive an exemption from your program advisor.

Information Security 1
10151110
3 credits
Introduces students to the fundamentals of information security. Topics include security terms and concepts, risk assessment, cryptography, monitoring and auditing, attacks and techniques, and the legal and ethical issues associated with information security. This course aligns with the CompTIA Security+ certificate. Students can take this certification exam after completing this course.
Corequisite: Networking I 10150110, Linux 10151105

Information Technology Internship
10150142
3 credits
Integrates networking skill developed in classroom study with specific occupational experiences at local employment sites. Develops work behavior appropriate to the computer information systems environment. Students are responsible for securing placement at their own internship site prior to registering for this course.

Introduction to Ethics: Theory & Application
10809166
3 credits
Provides a basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of ethical thought. Diverse ethical perspectives are used to analyze and compare relevant issues. Students critically evaluate individual, social, and/or professional standards of behavior, and apply a systemic decision-making process to these situations.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English

Intro to Programming
10152101
3 credits
Applies the basic concepts of computer programming having learners build Python applications, with an emphasis on problem solving, structured programming, debugging, and testing. Additional topics include: online software development resources, programming and documentation standards, variable lifetime/scope, data types, control structures (conditions and iterations) working within Microsoft Windows, and mathematical calculations.

Introduction to Psychology
10809198
3 credits
This science of psychology course is a survey of multiple aspects of behavior and mental processes. It provides an overview of topics such as research methods, theoretical perspectives, learning, cognition, memory, motivation, emotions, personality, abnormal psychology, physiological factors, social influences, and development.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English

Introductory Statistics
10804189
3 credits
Students taking Introductory Statistics display data with graphs, describe distributions with numbers, perform correlation and regression analyses, and design experiments. They use probability and distributions to make predictions, estimate parameters, and test hypotheses. They draw inferences about relationships including ANOVA. Algebra knowledge and foundational skills in mathematics are important for success in this course.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMM_2 or Accuplacer QAS 241 or ACT Math score of 19 or Pre-Algebra 10834109 or College Math 10804107 with a "C" or better

IT Essentials
10154102
3 credits
An introductory course covering essential IT support and computer hardware skills. Students will learn to build, configure, secure, network, and troubleshoot PCs, along with an introduction to operating systems, basic networking concepts and configuration used in end devices, basic server functions, mobile devices, and printers—preparing them for entry-level IT roles.

Linux
10151105
3 credits
Covers introductory Linux topics, including operating system basics, system installation, file system management, file system administration, and basic commands. This course aligns with the CompTIA Linux+ certificate. Students can take this certification exam after completing this course.

Network Server Scripting
10150165
3 credits
Provides best practices and techniques in Linux and Windows shell and command line scripting using PowerShell and BASH.
Prerequisite: IT Essentials 10154102; Corequisite: Server Administration-Beginning 10150120 and Intro to Programming 10152101

Networking I
10150110
3 credits
Introduces the architecture, structure, functions, components, and models of the Internet and other computer networks. The principles and structure of IP addressing and the fundamentals of Ethernet concepts, media, and operations are introduced to provide a foundation for the curriculum. By the end of the course, participants will be able to build simple LANs, perform basic configurations for routers and switches, and implement IP addressing schemes. This course is the first of three courses that align with CCNA certification. Covers the objectives of the first CCNA exam.

Networking II
10150111
3 credits
Describes the architecture, components, and operations of routers and switches in a small network. It focuses on small-to-medium business networks and includes wireless local area networks (WLANs) and security concepts. Students learn key switching and routing concepts. They can perform basic network configuration and troubleshooting, identify and mitigate LAN security threats, and configure and secure a basic WLAN. This course is the second of three courses that align with CCNA certification. Covers the objectives of the first CCNA exam but is not designed or intended to be a "test prep" course.
Prerequisites: Networking I 10150110

Networking III
10150112
3 credits
This course covers wide area network (WAN) technologies and quality of service (QoS) mechanisms used for secure remote access. Students are introduced to network management tools and learn key concepts of software-defined networking, including controller-based architectures and how application programming interfaces (APIs) enable network automation. This course is the final course that aligns with the CCNA certification. The course covers the objectives of the second CCNA exam but is not designed or intended to be a "test prep" course.
Prerequisite: Networking II 10150111

Networking IV
10150113
3 credits
Discusses the new and upcoming technologies and network services required by converged applications in complex networks. Students will learn how to provision and monitor services in the cloud and network based applications.
Prerequisites: Networking III 10150112 and Virtualization 10150130

Oral/Interpersonal Communication
10801196
3 credits
Focuses on developing effective listening techniques and verbal and nonverbal communication skills through oral presentation, group activity, and other projects. The study of self, conflict, and cultural contexts will be explored, as well as their impact on communication.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English or College Reading and Writing with a C or better

Quality Customer Service
10106106
3 credits
Addresses sensitivity in communicating with customers and co-workers. Includes international communications, teamwork, working relationships, and telephone skills.

Quantitative Reasoning
10804135
3 credits
This course is intended to develop analytic reasoning and the ability to solve quantitative problems. Topics to be covered may include construction and interpretation of graphs; descriptive statistics; geometry and spatial visualizations; math of finance; functions and modeling; probability; and logic. Appropriate use of units and dimensions, estimates, mathematical notation, and available technology will be emphasized throughout the course.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMM_1 or Accuplacer QAS 241 or ACT Math score of 19 or Pre-Algebra 10834109 or College Math 10804107 with a "C" or better

Secure Software Applications
10151162
3 credits
The Secure Software Applications course teaches students about the most common attacks against applications and how to defend against those attacks through secure coding practices and good security hygiene. The class focuses on the OWASP top 10, certificates, code scanning, SDLC Security automation and more.
Prerequisite: Intro to Programming 10152101

Server Administration-Beginning
10150120
3 credits
Develops skill in the design, installation, administration, and management of computer networks. Topics include network design; installation and configuration of a commonly used network operating system; service packs and updated drivers; user accounts, groups, profiles, and policies; file system security; printer management; and application software installation, backup, and recovery.
Prerequisite: IT Essentials 10154102; Corequisite: Linux 10151105

Server Administration-Intermediate
10150121
3 credits
This course provides an in-depth introduction to cloud computing, focusing on the principles and best practices for deploying, securing, and managing cloud environments. Students will explore key concepts such as virtualization, cloud infrastructure, security, automation, performance optimization, and disaster recovery. Through a combination of lectures, hands-on labs, and real-world case studies, students will develop the skills needed to evaluate cloud solutions, implement security controls, and ensure business continuity in modern IT environments.
Prerequisite: Server Administration-Beginning 10150120

Speech
10801198
3 credits
Explores the fundamentals of effective oral presentation to small and large groups. Topic selection, audience analysis, methods of organization, research, structuring evidence and support, delivery techniques, and other essential elements of speaking successfully, including the listening process, form the basis of this course. Includes informative, persuasive, and occasion speech presentations.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 253 and Writing of 262 or ACT of 21 Reading/19 English or completion of College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 with a "C" or better

Think Critically & Creatively
10809103
3 credits
Provides instruction about critical and creative thinking that is in high demand in all occupations. Models, theories, and processes provide the foundation for learning logical thinking strategies. Students will apply a systematic approach to problem solving by analyzing the problem, assessing possible solutions, and making effective decisions. In addition, students will generate ideas and analyze complex issues. This course assists students with developing a critical thinking mindset which is essential at every level of personal and professional life.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMR and MMW or Accuplacer Reading Skills of 236 and Writing of 237 or ACT of 15 Reading/16 English

Virtualization
10150130
3 credits
This course introduces students to virtualization concepts and technologies. Students will gain hands-on experience with hypervisors, virtual machine management, resource allocation, storage solutions, virtual networking, and high availability. The course aligns with foundational virtualization certification objectives but is not specifically designed as a test preparation course.
Prerequisites: Server Administration-Beginning 10150120 and Linux 10151105

Written Communication
10801195
3 credits
Develops writing skills which include prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. A variety of writing assignments are designed to help the learner analyze audience and purpose, research and organize ideas, and format and design documents based on subject matter and content. Also develops critical reading and thinking skills through the analysis of a variety of written documents.
Prerequisite: High School GPA of 2.6 and MMW or Accuplacer Writing of 262 or ACT English score of 20 or completion of College Reading and Writing 1 10831104 with a "C" or better