Program Overview for Employers

The Applied Computer Technology (ACT) program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) prepares students for careers in the area of information technology. Graduates are well qualified and prepared for jobs as computer technicians, computer support specialists, network technicians and network security specialists.

Degrees Awarded

- Associate in Applied Science (AAS)
- Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS)
- Associate in Science (AS)

Potential Job Candidates

Approximately 100 students currently are enrolled in this program.

Cooperative Education (Co-op) Component Required

Students get valuable workplace experience by completing one required 10-week co-op block.

Equipment and Facilities

ACT students study in six different computer labs:

- **Two Hardware Labs**
  Students use both PCs and Macs. Computer components and diagnostic software are used for hands-on work as they develop skills in upgrading, repairing, troubleshooting and maintaining computers and computer peripherals.

- **Two Networking Labs**
  Students learn to network and secure various platforms of client and server computer systems along with applying hardware/software diagnostic and security tools to develop hands-on networking skills.

- **Multimedia Lab**
  In this lab, students receive instruction in a variety of different technologies, including Windows and Unix-based operating systems, Web development, introductory programming and database applications. Students learn in a hands-on, highly interactive lab environment.

- **Self-Instruction Lab**
  Students use this open lab to complete assignments independently and to access e-mail and browse the Web.

Student Skills and Capabilities – Preparation for a Career

Students acquire a strong foundation in computer hardware and operating systems, computer networking and security, and computer applications such as MS Office, database and Web development software and Windows and Unix-based operating systems. All students must take core courses in PC hardware and operating systems, networking and network security and basic Web development, as well as courses in introductory programming and database technology, regardless of the concentration they choose. In the second year of the program, students choose a concentration in one of the following areas:

- **Computer Technical Support**
  This concentration requires students to take advanced courses in helpdesk support, digital technology integration and computer and data security as well as network administration. The concentration prepares students to work in a business environment repairing, upgrading and interfacing PCs and Macs as well as working with peripherals and networks. Students can study for and attain A+ certification.

- **Networking and Cyber Security**
  This concentration requires students to take in-depth networking security, network administration and server administration courses focusing on setting up and securing corporate networks. Students can study for and attain A+, Net+ and Security+ certifications.

(continued)
Applied Computer Technology

Students also choose several electives from within Information and Computing Studies or other majors at RIT/NTID, including, but not limited to, programming languages, advanced Web development and certification studies.

Selected Software and Hardware Used to Develop Technical Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Operating System Software</th>
<th>Hardware</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C#</td>
<td>Linux, Unix</td>
<td>Cisco routers and switches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Recovery</td>
<td>MAC (current and past versions)</td>
<td>Macs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Office</td>
<td>Windows (current and past versions)</td>
<td>PCs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Selected Technical Courses Leading to an Associate Degree

- Client-Server Networks
- Computer & Data Security
- Digital Systems Integration
- Fund. of Systems Administration
- Help Desk Support
- Intro to Database Applications
- Intro to PC Hardware
- Intro to Programming
- Intro to Web Development
- LAN/WAN Design
- Network Defense Technologies
- Networking Essentials
- Non-Windows Operating Systems
- Server Management & Security
- Windows Operating System

The following employers throughout the country have hired Applied Computer Technology students and graduates:

- Adobe
- American School for the Deaf
- Chicago Fire Soccer Club
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Mediacom Communications Corporation
- Ohio Health Corporation
- Rhode Island School for the Deaf
- Rochester School for the Deaf
- Social Security Administration
- Sorenson Communications
- University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- ZVRS

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