

# Applied Computer Technology

[www.ntid.rit.edu/ics/act](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/ics/act)

## 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 8 different computer labs:

- **Two Hardware Labs**  
Students learn Windows, Apple, Arduino, Raspberry Pi and Linux operating systems. Computer components and diagnostic software are used for hands-on activities 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 Web development, introductory programming and database applications.

- **Self-Instruction Lab**

Students use this open lab to complete assignments independently or with teams.

### Student Skills and Capabilities – Preparation for a Career

Students acquire a strong foundation in computer hardware and operating systems, computer networking and computer security, and computer applications such as MS Office, database and web development, Windows and Unix-based operating systems. All students must take core courses in PC hardware and operating systems, networking 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**  
In addition to core courses, this concentration requires students to take advanced courses in helpdesk support, digital systems integration and computer and data security as well as server management. The concentration prepares students to work in a business environment repairing, upgrading and interfacing computers as well as working with peripherals and networks. Students can study for and attain A+ certification.
- **Networking and Cyber Security**  
In addition to core courses, 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+ and Network+ certifications.

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Students also choose several electives from within Information and Computing Studies or other majors at RIT/NTID, including, but not limited to courses in business studies, advanced computing studies, or introductory visual communication or engineering studies.

## **Selected Software and Hardware Used to Develop Technical Skills**

### Software

- C#
- MS Office
- Open Source

### Operating System Software

- Linux, Apple & Windows (current and past versions)

### Hardware

- Cisco routers and switches
- x86 and x64 computers

## **Selected Technical Courses Leading to an Associate Degree**

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

## **A representative sample of employers throughout the country have hired Applied Computer Technology students and graduates; companies such as:**

- American School for the Deaf
- Fidelity Investments
- Mediacom Communications Corporation
- Ohio Health Corporation
- PNC Financial Services
- Rochester School for the Deaf
- Sorenson Communications
- The Learning Center for the Deaf
- University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Navy
- ZVRS

## **Contact us:**

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RIT/NTID co-op students, graduates and alumni provide employers with highly trained, highly motivated employees with excellent skills. We appreciate your interest in our co-op students and graduates and will work with you through the recruiting process to help you hire the right employee. **For your convenience, access further information and services on our website at [www.rit.edu/ntid/nce](http://www.rit.edu/ntid/nce).**