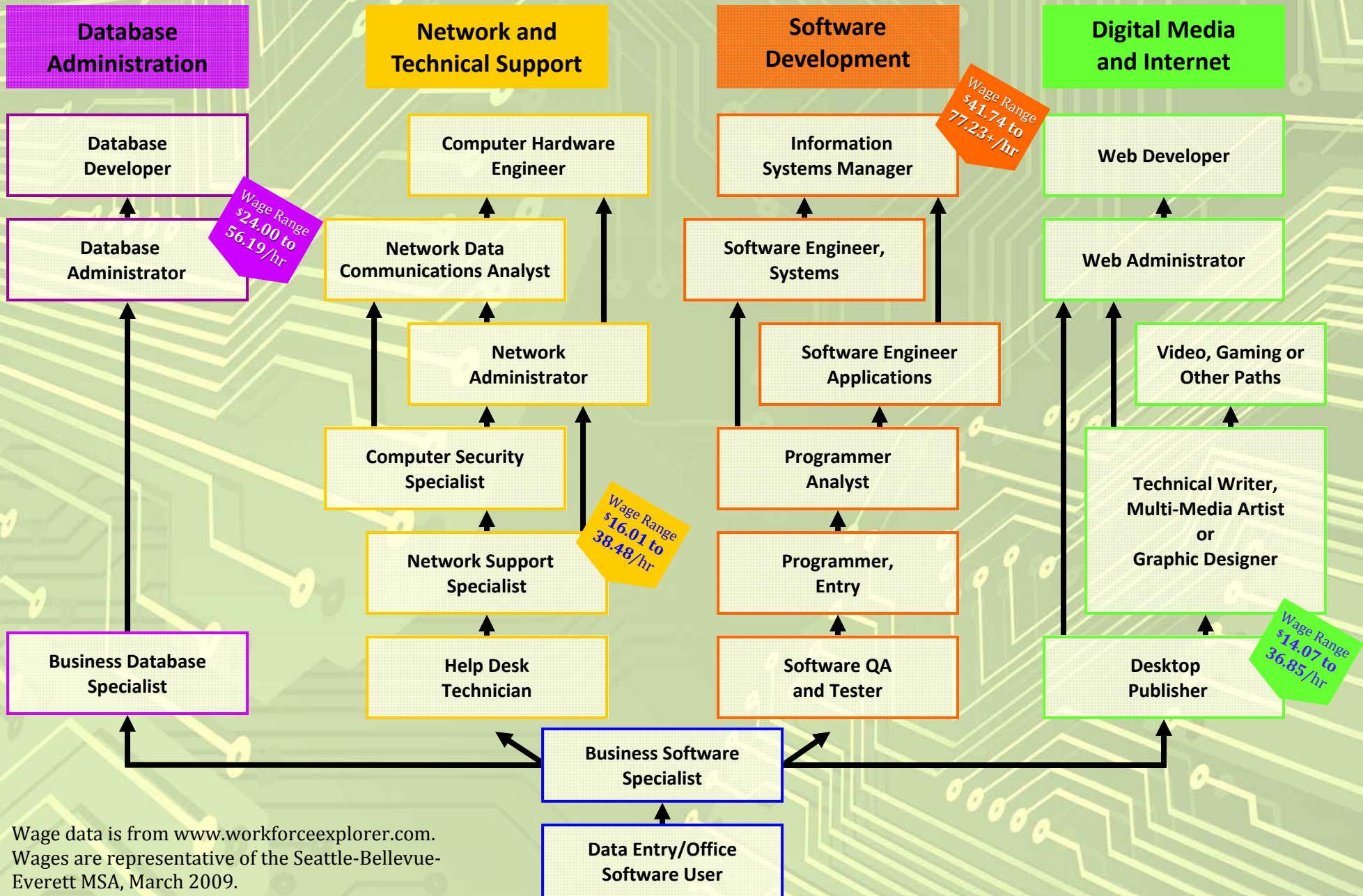


Career Paths in Information Technology



Wage data is from www.workforceexplorer.com. Wages are representative of the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MSA, March 2009.

A wide range of certificates and degrees are offered by the 11 community and technical colleges located throughout King County. To locate a college near you and learn more about the programs available, visit www.sbctc.ctc.edu and click on "Colleges." Or visit www.checkoutcollege.com.

Information Technology

Trends

In our technology-based economy, core technology skills are increasingly a critical skill set for a broad spectrum of occupations and sectors, not just those traditionally considered to be high-tech positions. Examples of some current in-demand IT jobs in King County include database administrators, computer systems analysts, computer software engineers, and computer programmers.

Looking long term, King County is projected to employ over 100,000 workers in computer and mathematical occupations by 2017, with an average annual growth rate of 2.7% between 2007 and 2017 (WA State Employment Security Department). Some of the most recognizable names in the information technology industry make their home in King County, including Amazon, Expedia, Nintendo, and Microsoft.

Wages

The average annual wage for the Information Publishing Industry (including Software Publishing) in King County in 2009 quarter 1 was \$117,854 (source: Washington State Employment Security Department).

[Note: Wages are averages of all occupations within the sector – including entry level and high level positions.]

For detailed information about occupations within this sector (e.g. current wage ranges per occupation, training schools, employment projections, and a link to jobs listed at WorkSource):

1. Go to www.workforceexplorer.com,
2. Click on the 'Wage and Benefit Information' link, and
3. Click on the 'Occupation Explorer' link to start your search.

Resources for Education and Career Planning

O*NET Online

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

A nation-wide career exploration resource, the O*NET database contains information about hundreds of occupations, including job tasks, education requirements, and wages.

Washington Workforce Explorer

<http://workforceexplorer.com>

Workforce Explorer provides career and economic information for Washington State. You will find career assessment and planning tools in the Career Center section and find occupation wage information by county in the Wage and Benefit information section.

Washington Career Bridge

www.careerbridge.wa.gov

Career Bridge is a one-stop, searchable database of education and training programs throughout Washington state where you'll discover:

- Available training programs.
- Average earnings and employment outlook for each career choice.
- Hot jobs for the future.
- What you'll need to learn to get those jobs.

This site was created by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, a partnership of labor, business and government.

Self-Sufficiency Calculator

www.thecalculator.org

The Calculator includes a variety of resources, including the Self Sufficiency Standard. The Self Sufficiency Standard for Washington measures how much income is needed for a family of a given composition - ranging from a one person household to a large family - in a given place, to adequately meet basic needs without any public or private assistance. The Self Sufficiency Calculator can help you:

- Plan and develop career goals so you can work towards a better paying job.
- Decide if a job you are considering will pay enough to meet your family's needs.
- Determine if you might be eligible for public benefits that can help with expenses like health care or child care.
- Test and compare different work or living options and see how they affect your bottom line.

WorkSource

www.go2worksource.com (Statewide) • www.worksourceskc.org (Seattle-King County)

Washington's career and employment website offering information about career services available at local WorkSource offices as well as a number of career planning and job search tools and links.