

Get Connected

SSC's Computer Information Sciences program dials in on a growing market.

South Suburban College's Computer Information Sciences program is one of over 40 SSC career education programs preparing students in the latest technology for a wide-open job market.

Traditional computer courses have focused on business tasks such as payrolls and inventory. The CIS Department at SSC is giving additional attention to non-traditional areas, while preparing all of its graduates for a job market with some of the fastest growing occupations.

"The demand for computer technology jobs is changing," said Robert Wier, CIS program coordinator. "Our Computer Information Sciences Faculty are constantly looking for new technological trends. We believe that now is the time to prepare for economic recovery through education."

The program provides students maximum flexibility while ensuring job qualifications and proficiency in at least one area. Students are instructed in a variety of software and hardware, and gain on-the-job experience in preparation for the ever-changing technology. They can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree while selecting courses to support several specializations. The College also offers many basic certificates, and credits will easily transfer to four year institutions.

Cutting-edge Curriculum

SSC's career programs frequently incorporate new courses into the curriculum to ensure that students graduate with a diverse background that includes knowledge of the most up-to-date technologies and advances. Some of the cutting-edge courses recently added to the CIS curriculum include Computer Game Programming, Computer Forensics and Security, and Robotics Programming.

The Computer Game Programming course integrates several fields of science and art making it incredibly fun and

rewarding to create games. Today hundreds of thousands of individuals are developing games. It is estimated that 50-70 million hobbyists want to develop games or use game-related technology for application in rendering, simulations, architectural modeling, massive multiplayer games, social interactive systems, and so on. Anyone can do it with no

Connecting to Employment

According to a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), each of the top-seven fastest growing occupations projected through 2010 falls within an IT or computer-related field. They are:

1. Computer Software Engineers
2. Computer Support Specialists
3. Computer Software Engineers, Software Systems
4. Network and Computer Systems Administrators
5. Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts
6. Desktop Publishers
7. Database Administrators

more than a PC and a few tools. Simple Value or Casual games can be written after a semester of specialized instruction in a computer language. SSC is offering the beginner a unique experience in developing games using a specialized language called "Dark Basic".

Another new CIS course offering is Computer Forensics. Students will learn computer investigation and analysis techniques used to determine potential legal evidence for various computer crimes. With the growth of the Internet and the availability of computers worldwide, there is a serious need for computing investigations and a high demand for individuals trained in various operating systems, computer hardware and computer forensics tools to combat the crimes.

A student will be able to recognize crimes committed on computers after completing this

course. Computer crimes can include violations of company policies, e-mail harassment, records of embezzlement, leaks of proprietary information, terrorism and more. Professionals in positions such as law enforcement officials, network administrators, private investigators, and attorneys must rely on individuals with this kind of specialized training.

Additionally, the CIS Department is now offering a unique Robotics Programming course. With the help of a computer, robots can mimic a number of human motor activities to perform jobs that are too monotonous or dangerous for their flesh-and-blood counterparts. However, robotic programs are not limited to machines that mimic human activities. The field also includes embedded processors that are found all around us. Embedded processors are used in automobiles, cell phones, home appliances, toys and many other devices.

In the last few years, there's been a lot of robot activity in the toy market. Sony received a great deal of attention for its Aibo robot dog. Following on that success are a number of new robot toys from Hasbro that make the original robots look like wind-ups. These new toys can tell jokes, sing rounds with their robotic pals, and make appropriate facial expressions. At least one even plugs itself in to recharge when its battery is running low. For household chores, there are robotic lawn mowers and robotic vacuum cleaners — a long way from the Jetson's Rosie washing the dishes, but it's a start.

For more information about Robotics or the CIS program, please call Robert Wier, Coordinator of Computer Information Sciences at (708) 596-2000, ext. 2535, or e-mail to rwier@southsuburbancollege.edu. For registration information, contact the New Student Center at (708) 210-5718 or visit the College online at: www.southsuburbancollege.edu.