

**COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO  
INDUSTRY FOCUS GROUP**

**INITIAL DRAFT LIST OF QUESTIONS**

**Objective:** To obtain input from industry with respect to anticipated job openings in information technology, and the workplace skills required to successfully perform the work of those jobs.

**IT JOB MARKET TRENDS**

1. Which entry level information technology jobs are in demand today? Which entry level information technology jobs will you be hiring in the near future?
2. How is the role of information technology worker changing in today's work environment?
3. What level of education are you requiring (AS, BA, etc), for entry level information technology positions?
4. How much experience do you require?
5. Where is the growth in entry level information technology jobs most likely to be?
6. What are the main drivers for IT in your organization (for example, move to virtual office environment, e-commerce, web transactions, equipment upgrades, network security, wireless access into the system, and new or emerging disciplines, roles, and/or occupations)?

**NEEDS/DEMANDS OF INDUSTRY**

1. Are there niche areas applicable to the 2-year level graduates in information technology?
2. What knowledge and skills are most important to include in worker retraining courses?
3. Is certification valued? If so, which certifications are most valuable?

**SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES TO INCLUDE IN CURRICULUM**

1. What core fundamental technical knowledge and skills do people need before they can succeed in obtaining and maintaining employment?
2. Are there any entry level job tasks required in the area of network security/information assurance? If so, what are those tasks? What do entry level technicians need to know to successfully complete those tasks?
3. Which programming languages are most useful?
4. What is the role of 2-year graduates in database administration? What are the knowledge and skills required?
5. What are the primary job tasks for entry level employees in networking? What networking systems are most useful for entry level employees to know?
6. What role does the Internet play in your business? What are the entry level job tasks related to the Internet? What knowledge and skills are required to successfully complete those tasks?

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**WORKPLACE SKILLS**

1. Which soft (workplace) skills are most important for success in information technology positions?
2. Which soft (workplace) skills are most lacking in present-day applicants?
3. Do College of Southern Idaho Information Technology graduates lack any specific soft (workplace) skills and/or technical skills?