



NATIONWIDE CAREER & SALARY GUIDE

Your Path to a

High-Demand Tech & AI Career

Starts Online. Starts Here.

2026 U.S. Salary & Career Outlook

Business IT Specialist • AAS in Information Technology • Technology Professional 6 • Machine Learning Specialist • Full Stack Developer

\$161K

Avg. U.S. Machine Learning
Engineer salary

\$112K

BLS median pay,
Information Security Analysts

\$133K

BLS median pay,
Software Developers

DSDT COLLEGE | Online Programs Nationwide | Detroit, MI

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Why DSDT — and Why Now

Information technology, cybersecurity, software development, and AI/machine learning sit at the very top of the U.S. employment growth list. Employers across all 50 states are competing for the same talent: people with practical, certified, job-ready skills. DSDT College was built to put students into those roles quickly, affordably, and with the certifications and portfolios employers actually screen for.

This guide is for prospective students, parents, employers, and career changers anywhere in the country. Every DSDT program is available online — so where you live doesn't determine what you can earn. The salary figures inside reflect 2025–2026 U.S. national reporting for the careers graduates of DSDT's five flagship technology programs target.

“A DSDT education isn't about a piece of paper. It's about walking into an interview — anywhere in the country — with the certifications, code samples, or models the employer is asking for, and walking out with the job.”

How to read this guide

Each salary table reports three U.S. national figures:

- Entry — what early-career professionals (0–2 years) typically earn.
- Median — the midpoint for the role across the U.S. labor market.
- Senior — what experienced professionals (5+ years) and team leads commonly reach.

Figures are pulled from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (May 2024 OEWS — most recent BLS release), Salary.com, Glassdoor, ZipRecruiter, PayScale, Indeed, Robert Half 2026 Salary Guide, and Coursera Career Insights. Actual offers vary by experience, employer, region, and certifications held.

Program snapshot

BITS is a 7.5-month, online diploma program designed to launch students into mid-tier IT, networking, and cybersecurity roles. Graduates leave with hands-on virtual-lab experience and the opportunity to sit for up to a dozen of the most-requested industry certifications. Delivered fully online so students can earn it from anywhere in the U.S.

Certifications you train for

CompTIA A+ (Core 1 & 2) • CompTIA Network+ • CompTIA Security+ • CompTIA Cloud+ • CompTIA Linux+ • CompTIA Server+ • CompTIA CySA+ • CompTIA CASP+ • CompTIA Project+ • AWS Cloud Services • Cisco CCENT • Cisco CCNA • C++ Programming.

U.S. national salary outlook

Role	Entry (0–2 yrs)	U.S. Median	Senior (5+ yrs)
Network Administrator	\$55,000	\$87,000	\$115,000
Systems Administrator	\$62,000	\$96,800	\$130,000
Cybersecurity Analyst	\$65,000	\$99,400	\$130,000
Information Security Analyst	\$70,000	\$112,000	\$165,000
Cloud Engineer (AWS)	\$90,000	\$130,800	\$170,000
Network Engineer (CCNA)	\$70,000	\$92,000	\$125,000
IT Project Coordinator	\$58,000	\$80,000	\$108,000
Penetration Tester / Sec. Consultant	\$80,000	\$120,000	\$155,000

BLS benchmark (May 2024 OEWS): Network & Computer Systems Administrators — median \$96,800, top 10% above \$150,320. Information Security Analysts — median \$112,000.

Program snapshot

The AASIT is a 64-credit, two-year online associate degree built for working students nationwide who want a regionally recognized credential plus the technical fluency to start a long-term IT career. The curriculum blends fundamentals with high-demand skill areas — cybersecurity, cloud computing, Python programming, web development, and IT project management.

Already enrolled in a DSDT IT program? Your credits travel with you. Students who successfully complete DSDT's BITS diploma, Technology Professional 6, Machine Learning Specialist, Full Stack Developer, or eligible IT certificates can transfer those credits into the AASIT. Build the diploma you need now — and finish your associate degree later without starting over.

What you'll learn

Information Systems Fundamentals • Network Infrastructure & Administration • Information Security • Cybersecurity Foundations • Linux Administration • Cloud Computing • Python Programming I • Web Development • IT Project Management.

U.S. national salary outlook

Role	Entry (0–2 yrs)	U.S. Median	Senior (5+ yrs)
IT Help Desk Technician	\$39,000	\$52,000	\$68,000
Computer User Support Specialist	\$40,000	\$60,300	\$80,000
IT Support Specialist	\$45,000	\$62,000	\$85,000
Computer Network Support Specialist	\$48,000	\$73,300	\$95,000
Junior Network Technician	\$45,000	\$58,000	\$72,000
Junior Systems Administrator	\$55,000	\$73,000	\$92,000
Junior Web Developer	\$55,000	\$90,900	\$125,000
Junior Cloud Support Associate	\$58,000	\$78,000	\$100,000

BLS benchmark (May 2024 OEWS): Computer User Support Specialists — median \$60,340. Computer Network Support Specialists — median \$73,340. Web Developers — median \$90,930.

Program snapshot

Technology Professional 6 is a focused, 240-clock-hour online certificate built to stack three of the most in-demand cybersecurity and networking credentials onto a student's résumé in a matter of months. It is the fastest path DSDT offers into a credentialed networking or security-analyst role and the ideal step for career changers who need to be working in cyber quickly.

Certifications you train for

CompTIA Network+ • CompTIA Security+ • CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst+ (CySA+).

U.S. national salary outlook — careers TP6 graduates target

Role	Entry (0–2 yrs)	U.S. Median	Senior (5+ yrs)
Network Support Specialist	\$48,000	\$73,300	\$95,000
Network Administrator	\$55,000	\$87,000	\$115,000
SOC Analyst (Tier 1 / 2)	\$60,000	\$85,000	\$115,000
Cybersecurity Analyst	\$65,000	\$99,400	\$130,000
Information Security Analyst	\$70,000	\$112,000	\$165,000
Incident Response Analyst	\$70,000	\$105,000	\$140,000
Vulnerability Management Analyst	\$70,000	\$100,000	\$135,000
Junior Penetration Tester	\$70,000	\$95,000	\$130,000

Fastest path to cyber: TP6's three-cert stack (Network+, Security+, CySA+) maps to the most-screened-for certifications in Tier-1 and Tier-2 Security Operations Center (SOC) job postings nationwide.

Program snapshot

The Machine Learning Specialist diploma is a 7.5-month, 600-clock-hour online program that prepares students for AI engineering, data science, and ML-focused developer roles. Coursework is hands-on and project-based: students build, evaluate, and deploy real models using Python, modern ML libraries, and industry-standard tooling.

What you'll learn

Python programming for ML • Natural Language Processing (NLP) • Machine Learning algorithms • Data Analysis & Visualization • API Integration • Version Control (Git) • Experimentation & Model Evaluation • Optimization Techniques • Software Development Best Practices.

U.S. national salary outlook — careers ML graduates target

Role	Entry (0–2 yrs)	U.S. Median	Senior (5+ yrs)
Data Analyst	\$60,000	\$78,000	\$105,000
Junior Data Scientist	\$80,000	\$108,700	\$140,000
Machine Learning Engineer	\$105,000	\$161,000	\$200,000+
AI Engineer	\$110,000	\$170,000	\$210,000+
NLP Engineer	\$110,000	\$155,000	\$200,000
MLOps Engineer	\$100,000	\$145,000	\$190,000
AI/ML Developer	\$95,000	\$140,000	\$180,000
Computer Vision Engineer	\$110,000	\$160,000	\$210,000

AI wage premium: PwC's 2025 Global AI Jobs Barometer found a 56% wage premium for AI skills across industries (up from 25% the prior year). BLS reports a median wage of \$108,660 for Data Scientists (May 2024 OEWS); Glassdoor reports an average ML Engineer salary of \$161,030.

PROGRAM 05

Full Stack Developer

Program snapshot

DSDT's Full Stack Developer certificate is a 320-clock-hour online program covering both front-end and back-end web development. Students leave with a portfolio of real applications, working experience across the modern web stack, and the skills to apply for junior developer roles or freelance from anywhere.

What you'll learn

Python I & II • JavaScript I & II • React • HTML5 & CSS3 • Responsive Design • Node.js • SQL & NoSQL databases (PostgreSQL, MongoDB) • RESTful APIs & Ajax • Version Control (Git) • Web Deployment.

U.S. national salary outlook — careers Full Stack graduates target

Role	Entry (0–2 yrs)	U.S. Median	Senior (5+ yrs)
Web Developer	\$55,000	\$90,900	\$125,000
Front-End Developer	\$70,000	\$95,000	\$140,000
Back-End Developer	\$75,000	\$110,000	\$150,000
Full Stack Developer	\$80,000	\$118,800	\$160,000
Junior Software Engineer	\$85,000	\$105,000	\$140,000
Software Developer	\$90,000	\$133,080	\$180,000
Mobile / Web App Developer	\$75,000	\$110,000	\$155,000
Freelance Full Stack (project-based)	\$60K–\$120K	varies	\$150K+

BLS benchmark (May 2024 OEWS): Web Developers — median \$90,930. Software Developers — median \$133,080. Web & Digital Interface Designers — median \$98,090. Cloud (AWS/GCP) skills add roughly 8–18% to a developer's base pay.

The DSDT Stackable Pathway

DSDT's programs are designed to stack. A student can start with one credential, get into the workforce, and return to layer on more — without losing momentum, income, or earned credits.

Stage	Credential	Typical Role	U.S. Salary
Stage 1	Technology Professional 6 (3-mo certificate)	SOC Analyst, Network Support Specialist	\$60K – \$85K
Stage 2	Full Stack Developer or Machine Learning Specialist	Junior Full Stack Dev, Data Analyst, ML Developer	\$75K – \$120K
Stage 3	BITS Diploma	Network Admin, Cybersecurity Analyst	\$87K – \$112K
Stage 4	AASIT Associate Degree (prior DSDT credits transfer in)	Systems Admin, ML Engineer, Full Stack Engineer	\$95K – \$161K+

Credit transfer: Students who successfully complete DSDT's BITS, TP6, Machine Learning Specialist, Full Stack Developer, or eligible IT certificate programs can transfer those credits into the AASIT. Every step you take builds toward your associate degree.

Why Students Choose DSDT College

Online and distance education — earn from anywhere

Every DSDT flagship program is offered online, so students in any U.S. state can enroll, complete coursework, and earn their credential without relocating. Live instructor sessions, virtual labs, and one-on-one support keep distance students connected.

Accredited & employer-recognized

DSDT is nationally accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE) and approved by the State of Michigan. Programs are built around industry certifications and skills employers actually screen for — CompTIA, Cisco, AWS, Python, and modern ML and web frameworks.

Your credits travel with you

Successfully completed DSDT IT programs — including BITS, Technology Professional 6, Machine Learning Specialist, Full Stack Developer, and eligible IT certificates — transfer into the AASIT associate degree. Students don't lose the work they've already done; they build on it.

Military-friendly

DSDT accepts VA education benefits and is built to serve active-duty, veteran, and military-family students with flexible scheduling and a dedicated admissions track — wherever in the country (or the world) they're stationed.

Designed for working adults

Online and hybrid options, evening and weekend formats, financial aid for those who qualify, and no SAT or GPA requirement. Career-services support — résumé, interview prep, and employer connections — is included.

Ready to start your career?

Apply online today — no application fee, no SAT, no GPA requirement.

Visit www.dsdt.edu | Call **888-688-4234** | Email admissions@dsdt.edu

DSDT College • Online programs nationwide • Home campus: 1759 W. 20th Street, Detroit, MI 48216

Sources & methodology

Salary figures are U.S. national averages drawn from 2025–2026 reporting by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (May 2024 OEWS — most recent BLS release), Salary.com, Glassdoor, ZipRecruiter, PayScale, Indeed, Robert Half 2026 Salary Guide, Coursera Career Insights, and the PwC 2025 Global AI Jobs Barometer. Where multiple sources reported figures for the same role, DSDT used the median of credible sources and rounded. Salaries are estimates and not a guarantee of employment or earnings. Actual compensation depends on experience, certifications, employer, region, and the broader labor market at the time of hire. Credit transfer is subject to DSDT's academic policies; students must successfully complete the prior DSDT program for credits to apply toward the AASIT.

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