## Career Talk Software Developer

## What do they do?

Software developers are the creative minds behind software programs, and they have the technical skills to build those programs or to oversee their creation by a team. They create software that enables users to perform specific tasks on computer devices.

Those tasks might involve playing a game, watching a movie, writing a business letter, or building a spreadsheet. Specialized software is created or customized for virtually every profession, industry, and government department.



## Average Salary \$110,000

Developers who work in systems software are paid somewhat more than those who work in applications.

**Job Duties** ~ Developers can work in systems software or in applications such as those for mobile devices, but their duties are similar in many cases.

- Develop and test software to meet consumers' and clients' needs.
- Develop upgrades for existing applications.
- Monitor quality and performance of applications through testing and maintenance.
- Document all work for future reference.

**Work Schedule** ~ Hours can be erratic, depending on deadlines and the project you are working on. This is generally a full-time job where overtime is common. This career won't always stop for weekends and holidays.

**Educational Requirements** ~ Software developers typically have a bachelor's degree in computer science and a strong set of programming skills. Students studying computer science should focus on classes related to building software.

Internships are highly recommended because they provide both hands-on training and insight into various industries, as well as exposure to various programming languages. A firm knowledge of industry best practices and emerging trends in software development is essential.

Pennsylvania schools that offer computer science degrees and software development include Laurel Technical Institute, Robert Morris University, Penn State Behrend, University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus, Duquesne University, and Carnegie Mellon University.

## Job Outlook, 2018-2028

21% (much faster than average)

Learn more about a career in software development at the websites provided below.

https://www.yourfreecareertest.com/software-developer/

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018 and https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/15-1132.00