

Education Pathway Comparison



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_

**Compare three ways into an IT career.** Use the dated Route Data Guide. Career 1 is a support role where a high school diploma plus relevant certification may qualify some candidates. Career 2 typically needs an associate degree. Career 3 typically needs a bachelor's degree.

Do not guess costs or promise that one credential guarantees a job. Requirements vary by employer. Use the BLS wording and record the year beside every pay number.

| FIELD                       | CAREER 1:<br>CERTIFICATION ONLY | CAREER 2: ASSOCIATE<br>DEGREE + CERT | CAREER 3: BACHELOR'S<br>DEGREE |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Career Name                 |                                 |                                      |                                |
| Common entry<br>preparation |                                 |                                      |                                |
| Time consideration          |                                 |                                      |                                |
| 2024 BLS median<br>pay      |                                 |                                      |                                |
| One tradeoff                |                                 |                                      |                                |

Source discipline

- **Entry preparation:** copy the BLS wording from the Route Data Guide.
- **Time:** degree labels describe the usual program length; certification study time varies by learner and provider.
- **Cost:** compare only when your teacher provides a current official tuition or exam-voucher source. Cost is not required on this sheet.
- **Median pay:** this is a national midpoint, not a starting salary or a DFW guarantee.

**Think About It**

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**1. Which path takes the LEAST time? Which path takes the MOST? Use the numbers from your table.**

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**2. If you wanted to enter the workforce sooner, which path would you investigate first? Name one benefit and one tradeoff from your table.**

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