

## Computer Programmer Analyst (CPA)

### Frequently asked Questions:

#### **Are students getting jobs when they graduate?**

Recent Key Performance Indicators for St. Lawrence College report that 92.3% of our grads get jobs. The majority of our CPA graduates have IT jobs with an average starting salary of \$35,000 - \$45,000. They are employed by businesses using state of the art technology as well as legacy systems. These include mainframe and wireless computing, client/server applications, web development, e-commerce, maintenance and new development. There is currently a shortage of skilled IT workers in both Canada and North America.

#### **Is there a work placement?**

Yes! In the last year of the CPA program, students work 16 hours a week as a programmer for a local IT company. Most of these students are offered a full time summer position at their work placement earning up to \$20 per hour. Placement provides excellent experience on a resume as well as hands-on experience in the field. In some cases, students have been offered employment at the end of their work placement.

#### **Where do CPA grads work?**

Our graduates are hired by many businesses including the government, financial institutions, corporations, manufacturing, corrections, military, hospitals, and in the education sector. Graduates from the CPA program have jobs designing and writing business application programs, web development, systems analysis, design, data modeling, consulting and technical support.

#### **Why St Lawrence College in Kingston?**

St Lawrence College is the number 1 choice of many students from Kingston and beyond. We have new state of the art wired classrooms, a fitness facility, residence and upgraded computer labs. Varsity sports, intramurals and student run events complete your college experience. All students receive a membership to our YMCA fitness centre and receive a bus pass.

Check out the [www.stlawrencecollege.ca](http://www.stlawrencecollege.ca) >Campus Life for full details.

#### **When I get a job will I sit in front of a computer all day?**

Absolutely not! Graduates spend their time in a variety of different activities: designing, planning, meetings with clients and co-workers, training and of course, working at the computer.

#### **What will I learn?**

This program covers a variety of programming languages and platforms. Topics include web development, design, program design, database administration, data modeling and much more. We are one of a few colleges and universities in Canada who train people to use a mainframe computer. Mainframe computers are used by the banks, insurance companies and the government.

#### **Will I need a computer?**

It is strongly recommended that you have a computer and Internet service. But, well-equipped computer labs are available for your use.

**When can I start?** Semester 1 starts in September or January.

**Are these programs Engineering focused?**

No! We focus on a business approach and business solutions.

**Do I need to know very much about computers?**

No! We assume that most people have “surfed the net” but we start teaching the basics and build to advanced levels. Each semester builds on the knowledge and skills from previous semesters.

**Do I need to know a lot of math?** No! The emphasis is on creating business applications.

**What types of funding are available?**

There is a wide variety of financial assistance available including OSAP, awards, bursaries, scholarships and others. Look at our website, [www.stlawrencecollege.ca](http://www.stlawrencecollege.ca) > Paying for College.

**How long is the program?** The program is 3 years, or 6 semesters.

**What do I need to get accepted?**

You need a grade 12 high school diploma or GED. You do not have to take any more courses than are required by your high school diploma.

**I don't know whether to major in networking (CN&TS) or programming (CPA)?**

No problem. The first semester courses for both programs are the same. The courses introduce you to both programming and networking. By the end of the first semester you will be able to make an educated decision.

**What are the professors like?**

All of the professors are on a first- name basis. The IT professors not only have education in the field, but were programmers prior to coming to the college.

**What does a programmer analyst do?**

A programmer's job is to automate a business. You can thank the applications programmer for the bills you receive in the mail, the overdue parking fine notice or for being placed on a mailing list where you receive a lot of junk mail. But you can also thank them for your pay cheque, being able to bid on items on e-bay, when you use the ATM machines, or for the information that is stored on the magnetic stripe of your health card that may be used to save your life someday.

The work of an application programmer is rewarding work and the pay is pretty good too☺