

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College Computer Network Engineering

September 26, 2023

Program Summary

The AAS in Computer Network Engineering incorporates technology *and* employability skills into its work-based curriculum to learn about the computer science industry's networking environments and protocols. The program is deeply connected to regional employers and, through their "industry relevant learning pathways," Blue Ridge students are prepared to enter the workforce with a strong foundation for career success.



Strengths & Noteworthy Practices

In addition to Digital Literacy, the program was found to be strongest in its' development of Effective Communication, Critical Analysis, and Professionalism and Responsibility.

A variety of activities (e.g., writing, presenting, and creating videos and emails) develop Effective Communication. A presentation grading rubric presentation shows that students are assessed on logical presentation format, good eye contact, clear/audible voice, etc.) A grading rubric for a written assignment shows that students are assessed on the completeness of responses as well as whether they are understandable and without spelling or grammatical errors. Learners are gaining the skills to excel in a complex field through their ability to understand and apply technical knowledge *as well as* how to communicate about their work with internal and external stakeholders.

In IT 105, students participate in weekly ethical discussions and write a capstone paper regarding a contemporary ethical issue in the newspaper. Students are graded in verbal discussions for participation and meaningful contribution to the discourse.

ALL students complete a Field Experience course (CGEN 292) that includes an internship alongside content such as resume preparation, interviewing, networking, and general workforce skills. Learning outcomes include the ability to describe professional behavior in a business environment, applying concepts acquired in the classroom to actual work performance, analyzing work duties and comparing and contrasting them with classroom learning, evaluating work performance in relation to professional, ethical, and academic expectations, and producing documents and role-playing skills to professionally present oneself to potential employers.