



## Everything You Wanted to Know about Working as a Software Engineer: What the Qualifications, Education, and Responsibilities of a Software Engineer Are

By Robin Salisian

*Do you like working with computers? Are you interested in working at home? Would you like to earn good money? Then consider work as a software engineer! By discovering what the qualifications and responsibilities of a software engineer are, you'll be well on your way to landing your dream job in engineering.*



If you're passionate about computers, eager to earn good money, and interested in working at home, then you'd be wise to consider a career as a software

engineer. Why? Because not only would you be working in a field you enjoy, you'd also be working in a field that's constantly growing — computers continue to mold our lives, and so software engineering continue to thrive.

But what are the qualifications and responsibilities of a software engineer? What is the current job market like? Below, you'll discover all these things and more.

### The Education and Qualifications of a Software Engineer

Many software engineers obtain degrees in either computer science or software engineering. The first school to offer a bachelor of arts degree in software engineering was the [Rochester Institute of Technology](http://www.rit.edu/) [http://www.rit.edu/] in 1996. Other schools right on its tail included [Clarkson University](http://www.clarkson.edu/) [http://www.clarkson.edu/], the [Milwaukee School of Engineering](http://www.msoe.edu/) [http://www.msoe.edu/], and [Mississippi State University](http://www.msstate.edu/) [http://www.msstate.edu/]. Unlike a computer science degree, a software engineering degree offers courses both in "computer science and engineering principles and practices," according to Wikipedia.

Getting certified is also an option for those interested in software engineering. [The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Computer Society](http://www.computer.org/portal/site/ieeecs/index.jsp) [http://www.computer.org/portal/site/ieeecs/index.jsp] is one place to discover certification opportunities. By passing an examination, one can receive credentials and become a Certified Software Development Professional.

But along with obtaining a bachelor's degree and a certification, software engineers must possess strong problem-solving, communications, and analytical skills, according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos267.htm) [http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos267.htm]. Software engineers must be constantly curious

about new technology and update their skills with every tech advancement.

### The Responsibilities of a Software Engineer

Software engineers, according to [ulinks.com](http://www.ulinks.com/engineering/softwareengineeringdegree-computersoftwareengineercareer.htm) [http://www.ulinks.com/engineering/softwareengineeringdegree-computersoftwareengineercareer.htm], "often become specialized within a particular field and become coders where they build systems and applications. They may also be involved with the technical aspect where they are responsible for modifying and designing existing applications."

The responsibilities of a software engineer vary depending on a given engineer's area of specialization. However, according to [ulinks.com](http://www.ulinks.com/engineering/softwareengineeringdegree-computersoftwareengineercareer.htm) [http://www.ulinks.com/engineering/softwareengineeringdegree-computersoftwareengineercareer.htm], typical responsibilities include:

- Programming and coding
- Working with and developing text editors
- Building new systems and applications
- Programming networks
- Maintaining a network
- Determining efficient coding processes and procedures

### Current Job Market for Software Engineers

According to [Salary.com](http://www.salary.com), a software engineer earns between \$48,517 and \$59,550 per year on average. And, according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos267.htm) [http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos267.htm], the projected employment of software engineers by 2016 will be 1,181,000.

### Final Thoughts on Becoming a Software Engineer

If you are interested in computers, working from home, and earning good money, becoming a software engineer is a perfect way to thrive in an industry that you are passionate about. But be wary! Once you've obtained a bachelor's degree



## Engineering Job Profile

and a certification, be prepared for numerous responsibilities to come your way: programming and coding, maintaining networks, building new systems, and many more. Of course,

the rewards can be substantial — within no time, you would likely be earning between \$48,517 and \$59,550 per year.

EmploymentCrossing is the largest collection of active jobs in the world.

We continuously monitor the hiring needs of more than 250,000 employers, including virtually every corporation and organization in the United States. We do not charge employers to post their jobs and we aggressively contact and investigate thousands of employers each day to learn of new positions. No one works harder than EmploymentCrossing.

Let EmploymentCrossing go to work for you.