college forward

My Next Career Matrix

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Occupation	Required Education & Training	Important Qualities & Skills	Duties	Median Salary & Job Outlook	Additional Information	Additional Information
Information Security Analyst	Aligns with analytical personality and interest in cybersecurity and risk management.	Analytical thinking, problem-solving, attention to detail, communication, knowledge of network security.	Plan and implement security measures; monitor networks for threats; investigate security breaches; create reports.	33% growth (much faster than average); ~168,900 jobs projected by 2033.	$120,360/year (BLS, 2023)	Bachelor's degree in cybersecurity, IT, or related field. Certifications (CompTIA Security+, CISSP) recommended.
Compliance Officer	Matches structured, rule-oriented personality and interest in governance, risk, and compliance (GRC).	Detail-oriented, ethical judgment, communication, knowledge of regulations, risk assessment skills.	Ensure organization follows legal and internal regulations; conduct audits; develop compliance programs; report to management.	6% growth (faster than average); strong demand across finance, healthcare, and tech sectors.	$79,010/year (BLS, 2023)	Bachelor's degree in business, law, or related field. Industry certifications (CCEP, CRCM) beneficial.
Network and Computer Systems Administrator	Hands-on IT role that suits a hands-on learner with strong problem-solving and technical skills.	Technical aptitude, problem-solving, time management, communication, knowledge of operating systems and networks.	Install and maintain computer networks; troubleshoot issues; train users; ensure network performance and security.	-2% (slight decline); but demand remains in healthcare, government, and cybersecurity-focused organizations.	$95,360/year (BLS, 2023)	Bachelor's degree in IT or computer science. Certifications such as CompTIA Network+ or Microsoft MCSA valued.
Risk Management Specialist	Combines analytical thinking with decision-making skills; ideal for someone interested in GRC and structured systems.	Critical thinking, decision-making, data analysis, written communication, knowledge of risk frameworks.	Identify and assess organizational risks; develop risk mitigation strategies; prepare risk reports; advise leadership.	8% growth (faster than average); growing need for risk specialists in finance, tech, and government.	$99,130/year (BLS, 2023)	Bachelor's degree in finance, business, or IT. Certifications such as PMI-RMP or CRISC are highly valued.