Tech industry buzzing with opportunities

Applied technology is an area worth investigating for people looking to take the next leap in their careers.

The UBC Continuing Studies Division of Applied Technology recorded a 15 per cent increase in overall enrolment this term over the same period in 2008.

“The highest demand for work in the future would be in network administration and technology support areas,” said senior program leader Raquel Collins. “Those are two programs that are filling right now.”

Often students are enrolling to upgrade their skill set, according to Collins.

“People coming into the program are either working a job where they’re moving into a job with project management so they need to increase their training or people wanting to get into project management,” she said.

Programs and courses offered are not all number-crunching and technical jargon.

“We definitely emphasize the soft skills in all of our programs – your leadership, your communication,” Collins said.

“We feel our graduates need to have a grasp of that because those are the skills that employers really want to see.”

Free info sessions are available for people interested in upgrading their skills during dour economic times. The open forum includes guest speakers from the industry, program leaders and graduates.

For more info, visit www.tech.ubc.ca.

- Dharm Makwana, 24 hours