

Recommended Minimum Requirements for New Computer Purchases		
	PC	Macintosh
CPU	2.0 GHz or greater	2.0 GHz or greater
Wired Network Card and cable	Ethernet cards are a standard feature	
Wireless Network Card	USB transceiver OR card supporting 128-bit encryption.	
Hard Disk	120 GB	120 GB
Operating System	Windows Vista Home	Mac OS 10.4 or greater
System RAM	2 GB	2 GB
Anti-virus Software	See http://antivirus.cofc.edu for specific information	

Students living on campus have access to *Congar ResNet*. Most buildings require an Ethernet card and cable to connect to outlets in rooms. The rest are wireless. Desktop computers in a wireless residence will need a wireless card or device. Personal wireless networks in campus residences are prohibited! See the following list of residences and access type:

Wired Residences:

- Berry
- Buist Rivers
- Craig
- George St. Apts.
- Liberty
- McAlister
- McConnell
- Rutledge Rivers
- Warren Place
- 90, 99-107
Wentworth St.

Wireless Residences:

- College Lodge
- All historic houses except Wentworth St. above
- Kelly House

INFORMATION SOURCES

Campus Technologies is your information resource for *ResNet* connections. Contact them at: (843) 723-1312 or visit their Web site at www.campustechno.com. For all other computer-related questions, contact Student Computing

Support at (843) 953-5457 or email inquiries to computerinfo@cofc.edu.

SOFTWARE INFORMATION

Microsoft Office is the CofC standard for general course work (Office 2007 Home and Student edition for Windows or Office 2004 for Apple are recommended). Students should know the basic features of their computer's operating system and MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint for optimal academic performance. We recommend Windows Vista Home version for student computers. We do not support Windows 2000 or earlier versions. The simplest solution is to buy a new computer with the recommended software installed. Be sure to ask the vendor about educational discounting. Recommended software, discounted for academic use, can also be purchased from the CofC bookstore.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The STC is dedicated to high-end video, audio, and photo editing. Captured video from VHS tape can be edited and imported into presentations. Access is through reservations only. Only limited help is available and students need to develop the skills to make use of it. Instruction manuals for the software installed are available in the room.

WINDOWS VISTA

The Vista operating system is currently standard on all new PCs. Few problems have been noted and students are using their Vista computers on campus, however we can only provide Vista support for the CampusWide Wireless network and antivirus software at this time. The Windows XP Pro operating system is still an available option with our Dell Latitude laptop packages and, possibly, other manufacturer's high-end PCs too. The new Latitude XT Tablet PC requires Vista business edition.

COMPUTING @ THE

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

The College of Charleston does not require students to own computers, but having one is beneficial. Students in campus housing have access to the *ResNet* Internet service and all users can access the CampusWide Wireless Network. See <http://Campuswide.cofc.edu> for details. All students can use the Student Computing Center in the Addlestone Library. Selected dormitories have computer rooms available for their residents, and some academic departments have their own computer labs for students enrolled in their programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW COMPUTER PURCHASES

We recommend new computers meet or exceed the specifications listed in this brochure. The College of Charleston does not endorse any particular brand of computer, but you can obtain educational discounts from Dell or other manufacturers. A laptop provides more flexibility because their portability and integrated communications allow both wired and wireless network access all over campus. Send inquiries to computerinfo@cofc.edu.

BRINGING AN OLDER COMPUTER

This may be an ideal solution because it allows you to determine your computing needs over your first year before buying a new computer.

INTERNET ACCESS FROM COLLEGE RESIDENCE BUILDINGS

The College provides high-speed Internet service in campus residences at no charge. Students must

use the College's Norton Antivirus software and Campus Technologies' security software on their computers for access. Antivirus software is available from <http://antivirus.cofc.edu>. Go to www.campustechno.com for *Cougar ResNet* information and instructions.

Phone Support for *Cougar ResNet* is available 24/7, 365 days a year. Support is limited to:

- Answering basic installation and configuration questions
- Diagnosing connectivity problems

In-Room Support for *ResNet* users is available for diagnosing network connectivity problems 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Campus Technologies (843-723-1312) to schedule an appointment.

INTERNET ACCESS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS ON CAMPUS

Laptop users have network access from practically anywhere on campus through the CampusWide Wireless network. Also, the Addlestone Library has numerous tables and desks equipped with power outlets and ports that allow users to plug in an Ethernet cable for faster, more secure connections. CampusWide access from a wired residence or nearby apartment is not impossible, but highly improbable.

INTERNET ACCESS OFF-CAMPUS

Students living off-campus must obtain Internet service from an outside Internet Service Provider (ISP) in order to access campus information resources. Search the Internet or the local Yellow Pages for a listing of ISPs. Cable television subscribers can take advantage of high-speed access from their service provider.

CONFIGURING YOUR COMPUTER

Student laptops can be configured for the CampusWide Wireless network throughout the year at the Student Support Desk in the Addlestone Library computer lab. Hours are Mon-Fri, 8:00-5:00. One-stop setup service for both CampusWide and *ResNet* is provided during

Move-in Weekend and Mon-Fri during the first two weeks of school. Times and location can be found on the *Welcome Week* web page and calendar at www.cofc.edu/~welcomeweek/calendar.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should I purchase a laptop or a desktop computer?

We only recommend laptop and Tablet computers because they can be used in classrooms, in the residence halls, at the library, and in the attractive open areas across campus. Our Student Support Desk can also configure wireless network cards and perform limited diagnostic services for laptop users.

We offer Dell laptops with recommended features, accessories and software as packages. We also offer, on request, minimum recommended features for Macs. These models, plus a printer, should meet the needs of most students over four years. The size of laptops makes them more vulnerable to theft and more expensive to repair; but their mobility has distinct advantages.

Does CofC offer computer repair/upgrade services or sell computer-related parts, supplies and equipment?

Students with computers under warranty should always consult the manufacturer's technical support first. The Student Support Desk can only configure wireless network cards and provide limited diagnostic services and support for laptop users. We recommend searching the Internet or the local Yellow Pages for authorized vendors who do system upgrades and hardware repairs. Selected supplies, software and accessories are available at the CofC Bookstore, 160 Calhoun Street, or through Campus Technologies.

What computer and network security measures are provided or recommend for students?

Computer security begins with protection against viruses, spyware, and other items generally called "malware" that can cause loss of data or seriously degrade performance. The College provides

Symantec's Norton Antivirus software for PC and Mac at no charge. Students must update and run this software regularly to ensure effective protection. Both versions can be found at <http://antivirus.cofc.edu>. Anti-spyware programs can be downloaded from www.cofc.edu/it/helpdesk/students/downloads.

Network security involves logging into their *ResNet* and CampusWide accounts with the same username and password used for their CofC email. This information should NEVER be given to anyone, especially an email request. For account questions, please call 843-953-5457 or send email to studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu. Students in campus housing must keep their operating system up-to-date; use Campus Technologies' secure access software; and install the College's Norton Antivirus software to access *ResNet*. All other antivirus software must be uninstalled.

Students living in wired residences may also receive local non-college wireless signals. Internet access through these outside sources is not secure and should not be used for communicating sensitive personal information!

Physical security measures call for students to use locking cables to secure their computers and to register their computers--other high-value property too--with Public Safety to deter theft. Contact Public Safety for more information (843-953-4980 or go to www.cofc.edu/publicsafety).

Students MUST protect their data by backing up files to a high-capacity storage medium (external hard drives strongly recommended).

Follow Disaster Preparedness procedures available by contacting us at computerinfo@cofc.edu.