

Computer Recommendations & FAQs for Students

Do I need to own a computer?

No. WestConn has a number of computer facilities for students to use. Some open as early as 8am and close as late as 11pm. Some are open around the clock. General Computer Centers are located in room 117 of the Westside Classroom Building, the third floor of the Westside Campus Center, and at Midtown on the first floor of the Haas Library. Each offer HP desktop computers running Windows XP. Each facility also offers at least one Apple iMac running OS X. These facilities support a variety of software packages for student convenience, including Microsoft Office, Visual Studio, Netscape and Internet Explorer, Visio, and FrontPage. They also support specialized software on various machines per academic requirements, offer CD-RW/DVD drives, and are equipped with laser and color printers. Each computer center also is equipped with one or more group workstations, where those students working on group projects may do so more comfortably in the designated areas, and a graphic station, which offers software products from the Adobe Creative Suite. A color scanner is connected to each graphics workstation. We also offer 24 hour facilities for student convenience. A full list of locations and hours can be found at www.wcsu.edu/technology/students/pubfac.asp.

I want to purchase a computer to bring to WestConn. What should I buy?

Almost any new desktop or laptop computer purchased today from one of the leading computer manufacturers (IBM/Lenovo, Apple, Dell, Gateway, HP, etc.) should be more than adequate for basic student use on campus. If your specific needs are more demanding (for example, if you use computer graphics development software, video capture, etc.), then you'll want to purchase a faster system that has more memory and storage space. If you wish to connect to the network from your residence hall room, make sure the computer your purchase is "Ethernet-ready." A CD-RW or DVD+RW drive is highly recommended, as well as a USB flash or jump drive for quick transferring of data.

At minimum, University Computing recommends the following:

Windows

Any Pentium 4 or AMD equivalent processor, 2.4 GHz or higher
2 GB RAM or better
At least 40 GB of hard drive space
Windows XP Home or Professional SP2 (required to access ResNet)
10/100 Base T Ethernet Card (required to access ResNet)
Wireless Network Card 802.11g
(required to access WestConn wireless network)
Internet Explorer 6 SP2 (required to access ResNet)

Macintosh

Intel processor or better, 1.25 GHz or higher
1 GB RAM or more
At least 40 GB of hard drive space
Mac OS X v. 10.5 or higher (required to access ResNet)
10/100T Ethernet Card* (required to access ResNet) or
Airport Extreme Wireless Card**
(required to access WestConn wireless network)
Safari 4 (required to Access ResNet)

Can I connect to the University network from my residence hall room?

Yes. The Residence Hall Network (ResNet) connection provides you with a high-speed connection to WestConn's network from any residence hall room on campus. If you intend to connect your computer to ResNet, it must be have an ethernet card installed, otherwise you will not be able to access any network-based services. University Computing (OM 303 or WS 119) will supply you with an Ethernet cable. To connect to ResNet, you will be prompted to install **Cisco Clean Access Agent** onto your Windows computer (*Windows users will not be able to access ResNet services without Clean Access Agent installed*). You also will be required to install Microsoft critical OS updates and patches and antivirus software. Finally, to authenticate into the network, you **must have a WestConn Windows username and password**. For more information on ResNet, please see our ResNet Guide, available at all staffed computer centers, and at OM 303 and WS 119.

How do I get my WestConn Windows username and password?

A **WestConn Windows username and password** is **required** for students to access the University's network from the computer centers, classrooms, labs, residence halls, and via our wireless network. Students can obtain their account information at any of the staffed computer centers on campus: Midtown Computer Center (Haas Library), Westside Computer Center (WS Classroom Building, Rm. 117), Campus Center Computer Center (WS Campus Center, Third Floor) or Student Technology Training Center (Student Center 225).

more on next page



Which Anti-virus software should I use?

If you are using ResNet, your computer *must be up to date* with all the **latest security updates**. You must also have an **active, up-to-date anti-virus software installed** on your computer. We recommend that you set your anti-virus software to automatically update at least once a week, if not daily. Currently, ResNet supports three anti-virus software packages; Norton Antivirus, McAfee Antivirus, or Trend Micro PC-cillin. McAfee Anti-virus software is available to students for a free download at www.wcsu.edu/antivirus. For more information on protecting your personal computer, please go to the Information and System Security webpage at www.wcsu.edu/technology/security.

How do I connect to WestConn's Wireless Network?

Connecting to WestConn's Wireless Network is easy. No registration is required, only a valid WestConn Windows username and password are needed to successfully authenticate to the network via our wireless system, Blue Socket. Blue Socket technology securely verifies your WestConn Windows username and password before granting you access to the network. Our wireless network is expanding rapidly! For more information about our wireless network, including a list of hotspots, visit one of our staffed computer centers, or go to: www.wcsu.edu/technology/wireless for more information.

Can I get a ConnectMail Email account?

Absolutely. All students are required to get a ConnectMail E-mail account, part of the Connect Suite of services. Once your account has been created, you will have access to your e-mail from any computer on or off-campus that has access to the Internet, as ConnectMail E-mail is Web-based. Email can be accessed by visiting www.wcsu.edu and clicking on **Current Students**, then select **E-mail Login**. Students are given 25 GB of E-mail storage and have access to a built-in calendar system. To login to ConnectMail, enter your username (*windowsusername@connect.wcsu.edu*) followed by your password. If you have never logged in before, your password will be "Connect50XXXXXX" (the word *Connect* followed by your own 8-digit student ID number. If you are unsure of what number this is, please contact our Help Desk listed below or visit one of our staffed computer centers.

What software is available on campus?

WestConn is currently running the Microsoft Office Suite (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Access) on ALL computers located in either a technology classroom, or one of the computer labs on campus.

I am not very computer savvy. Where can I get help?

Not to worry! The General Computer Centers, located in room 117 of the Westside Classroom Building and at Midtown on the first floor of the Haas Library, employ student lab assistants who can provide assistance based on their individual knowledge. However, **students needing extensive help should visit the Student Technology Training Center (STTC)** in room 225 of the Student Center on the Midtown campus.

The **STTC** is a **student-run facility** that provides students with informal **individual assistance** and software training in a comfortable, easy-going environment. The STTC also offers formal-style workshops and tutorials on an on-demand basis. This facility seeks to empower students with a practical understanding of current technology. The STTC prides itself on its diverse staff that caters to all levels of computer knowledge and learning styles. All students are strongly encouraged to utilize this resource, paid for by your Student Technology Fee.

What are the policies and regulations for using the university network?

University Computing does not support any gaming systems or file sharing programs. Any form of network misuse, unauthorized distribution, or illegal reproduction of copyrighted material(s), via the CSU network and the Internet, is strictly prohibited. Examples of such misuse include, but are not limited to, running file sharing servers and distributing or sharing pirated movies, music files, and/or any other form of electronic proprietary material. Violation of these or any other rule(s) may result in academic/judicial action and denial of further network and computing privileges. Be aware that all computing and network resources at Western Connecticut State University are subject to monitoring as described in the University Electronic Monitoring Notice. (<http://www.wcsu.edu/hr/policies/electronicmonitoring.html>)

For a full comprehensive guide to all technology services available to students, please visit our website: www.wcsu.edu/helpdesk or call (203) 837-8467,

We look forward to serving your technology needs!



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