

2009 - 2010 Student Personal Computer Recommendations

Dear Eastern Student,

Please allow us to extend to you a personal welcome to Eastern Connecticut State University. As you may be aware, there are two basic choices of computer operating systems, Apple Mac or Microsoft Windows. The University is primarily a Microsoft Windows environment; however there are Macs here as well. Your choices should be based on your personal preference and perhaps your choice of a major. If you have already chosen a major, we recommend that you contact the specific Department Chair for any computer recommendations the department may have. However, if that is not the case, the following recommendations will be useful to you as a general guide. Eastern has a "student computer purchase" program with Dell, HP and Apple available at this time. Check the **Passport to Technology website**, <http://www.easternct.edu/portal/passport> for details.

Recommendations for Windows computers:

Operating System: Windows XP with Service Pack 3 or Windows Vista SP1 (any version). **Up-to-date antivirus and antispyware software is required. Eastern provides all students with a copy of McAfee Antivirus and AntiSpyware for Windows at no additional cost.** You can pick up a CD of the current McAfee Antivirus version by visiting the General Purpose Computer Lab located in Webb Hall 410 and presenting your Eastern Student ID card or you may download and install it from the network after your arrival on-campus.

Hardware recommendations:

- Minimum processor speed: 2.0 GHz or above (desktop) or 1.0 GHz or above (laptop)
- Ethernet network card (NIC) (required for Internet access in the Residence Hall)
- Memory (RAM): 1GB RAM minimum (2 GB recommended)

Additional software recommendations:

Microsoft Office: Beginning with the fall 2007 semester, Eastern began offering Microsoft Office 2007 & 2008 (Mac) to all enrolled students at no additional charge. Pick up your copy in the Webb Hall 410 Computer Lab. Pick up your copy in the Webb Hall 410 Computer Lab. Check the MyECSU Student Portal for details and hours of operation.

Please be sure to review the reverse side of this page for additional recommendations/requirements

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Recommendations for Apple computers:

Operating System: Mac OS X (Tiger or Leopard). Any recent model Apple laptop or desktop running Mac OS X Tiger or Leopard is acceptable. Please be sure that Mac OS X is at the most current version and all security and other system patches have been applied. Antivirus is strongly recommended and provided at no additional cost to all students. McAfee Virex for Mac OS X is available at no additional charge to all ECSU students. You can pick up a CD of the current version by visiting the General Purpose Computer Lab located in Webb Hall 410 and presenting your student ID card. **Additional recommended software:**

Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac: Beginning with the spring 2008 semester, Eastern began offering Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac to enrolled students with Macs at no additional charge. Pick up your copy in the Webb Hall 410 Computer Lab. Check the MyECSU Student Portal for details and hours of operation.

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General Information:

Internet Access: If you will be living on-campus, please be aware that in nearly all residence halls, the University provides free always-on, high-speed wired Internet access. **A separate Internet service provider, (Comcast, Earthlink, ATT/Yahoo, etc.) is not necessary.** Wireless access on-campus is currently available in public areas of the Library, Webb Hall, Hurley Hall, the Student Center the Science Building and the outdoor patio area adjacent to the Library. Additional locations will be added in the future.

PERSONAL WIRELESS ROUTERS/ACCESS POINTS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON-CAMPUS

Wireless Internet is being phased into the residence halls over several semesters.

Peripheral recommendations: We recommend the purchase of a USB Flash drive. Flash drives, will provide an easy means for you to transport files. All University-owned computers in labs and classrooms provide accessible USB ports for Flash drive access. Each Eastern student also has file storage space on a network drive which will be automatically accessible to them from any University-owned Windows computer on-campus as well as from any computer with an Internet connection through Eastern's Virtual Private Network (VPN).

Printers: Black and white laser printing is available at in the General Purpose Computer Lab located in Webb Hall Room 410. Printing is also available in the Library and in Residence Hall labs. Please consult with the appropriate staff in each area for details. Color printing for course work only, is available on a limited basis in the Webb Hall 410 Lab. If your budget allows, a compact, desktop all-in-one type color inkjet printer would be a useful addition to your personal computer in any student residence hall room.

Please visit the "Passport to Technology: Student Edition website at <http://www.easternct.edu/portal/passport/> to learn more about all of the technology available to Eastern students. The website includes information on Eastern student email, Blackboard Vista (Eastern's online course management system), as well as virtual tours of technology facilities, tutorials and other of information about computing here at Eastern. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Gill in the Center for Instructional Technology (CIT) by telephone at 860-465-5793 or by emailing gillk@easternct.edu

IMPORTANT COMPUTER INFORMATION FOR NEW RESIDENT STUDENTS AT ECSU

All residence halls are wired for access to our campus network and the Internet. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources!

If you plan to bring your own computer to connect in your room, be advised that your computer must be properly patched and protected against viruses and other security threats **BEFORE** it is allowed access to the network. Eastern's network scans for vulnerable computers and will disable connectivity if your computer is not fully protected and patched.

These measures are necessary for the protection of all network users.

NOTE: Computer owners are responsible for the operation and configuration of their equipment.

How do I prepare and protect my computer?

Eastern conducts several orientation program sessions for new students during the summer. Detailed information on preparing your computer and using the campus network will be provided at each session.

In addition, security software tools and resources are available to all students, including antivirus/antispayware software that Eastern has licensed for student use at no added cost.

In the meantime, we recommend the following steps:

Windows users upgrade to Windows XP SP3 or higher or Vista SP1, if you are not already at either of those versions. Support for other Windows versions is unavailable.

See Microsoft's "Protect your PC" web site for step-by-step instructions on protecting your computer, at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/protect/chooseos.msp>

Mac users should run the most current version of the Mac operating system and apply all Software Updates as they become available. See Apple's website for step-by-step instructions at: <http://www.apple.com/softwareupdate>

Refer to the "Passport to Technology" provided by Eastern's ITS Department at:

<http://www.easternct.edu/depts/its/student-services/>

We look forward to seeing you at orientation!