

2010 - 2011 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 many 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 both 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 SP3, Windows Vista SP3 or Windows 7 (any version). **Up-to-date antivirus and antispyware software is required.** Any of the popular commercial Internet protection software is acceptable. There are also some free excellent antivirus/antispyware solutions available including, but not limited to the following:

- **Microsoft Security Essentials antivirus/antispyware protection suite** www.microsoft.com/security_essentials
- **AVG Antivirus Free Edition 9.0** <http://free.avg.com/us-en/download-avg-anti-virus-free>
- **Avast! Antivirus/Antispyware** <http://free.avg.com/us-en/download-avg-anti-virus-free>

Hardware recommendations:

- Minimum processor speed: 2.0 GHz or above
- "Netbooks" are NOT recommended
- Memory (RAM): 2 GB RAM minimum (4 GB or greater recommended)

Additional software recommendations:

Microsoft Office: Microsoft has announced that Office 2010 will be released in June 2010. Eastern will offer begin to offer Microsoft Office 2010 sometime in late July – early August 2010 once the installation media has been received. Office 2008 for Mac is available now. All Eastern students are entitled to a copy of either Office version at no additional charge. Pick up your copy in the Webb Hall 410 Computer Lab. Check the MyEastern Student Portal (www.easternct.edu/portal) for details and hours of operation and Office 2010 availability.

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Recommendations for Apple computers:

Operating System:

Mac OS X (Leopard or Snow Leopard). Any recent model Apple laptop or desktop running Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) or OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) is acceptable. iPads are not recommended. Please be sure that all security and other Apple Software patches have been applied. Antivirus is strongly recommended.

Additional recommended software:

Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac: Eastern offers 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 MyEastern 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, Student Center, Science Building and the outdoor patio area adjacent to the Library and many Residence Hall common areas. 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 a 250 MB 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). Additionally, computers located in each residence hall computer lab, Webb Hall 410 General Purpose Computer Lab and all classroom computers have CD burners. Students must provide their own CD media. During the Summer of 2010, Eastern students will also get

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. 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/antispymware 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 SP3 or Windows 7, if you are not already at one 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.mspx>

Macintosh 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-

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!