



**Information Technology Services**

Davies Hall Room T235

322-2440



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[www.itascacc.edu/it/helpdesk](http://www.itascacc.edu/it/helpdesk)

## Recommended Computer Specifications

Students whom desire to purchase a computer for academic use while attending Itasca Community College may consider these specifications when shopping for a new computer, or evaluating whether or not an existing computer is adequate. It should be noted that these specifications were developed with general academic / business computing needs in mind (word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations, email, Internet browser, etc)

Computer RAM and Processor requirements for a computer running Windows Vista are significantly higher, so we suggest a minimum of 2GB of RAM on any windows Vista computer. If the student plans to use GIS or CAD/CAM software, a fast processor and extra RAM may be warranted.

<p><b>Desktop Computer</b></p> <p>You can purchase a new desktop computer with CRT screen for less than \$500, and expect to pay another \$200 for a LCD screen.</p>	<p>CPU: 2 Ghz or faster  RAM: 1 GB, if Windows XP, 2 GB if Windows Vista  Hard Drive: 80 GB (bigger for Windows Vista)  DVDROM-CDRW Combo  Any Network (Wireless Optional), Video, Sound  USB Ports: 2  Keyboard and Optical wheel mouse  Monitor: 15" LCD or 17" CRT  Recommended Operating System: Windows XP, Mac OSx or Linux  (NOTE: We provide only limited technical assistance on Windows Vista at this time)</p>	
<p><b>Laptop Computer</b></p> <p>You can purchase a new laptop computer for about \$800.</p>	<p>CPU: 1.5GHz or faster  RAM: 1 GB, if Windows XP, 2 GB if Windows Vista  Hard Drive: 30 GB (bigger for Windows Vista)  CD Drive: CDRW or DVDROM-CDRW Combo  Any Network (Wireless recommended), Video, Sound  USB Ports: 2  Mouse: Touchpad or Optical wheel mouse  Display: 14"-15" LCD  Operating System: Windows XP, Mac OSx, or Linux  (NOTE: We provide only limited technical assistance on Windows Vista at this time)</p>	

NOTE About Wireless: If you are buying a wireless adapter for your computer, make sure it is 802.11g compatible.



## Recommended Software

**OpenOffice.org** This is a very good complete suite of office applications including a word processor, spreadsheet, presentations, database, etc. It is FREE, and can exchange files in Microsoft format.

**Anti-virus** – There are a couple of good free AntiVirus products. Check out:

[AVG AntiVirus](#)

[AVAST AntiVirus](#)

**Mozilla FireFox** web browser – with all of the standard plugins

There are many other good free software applications available, so call before you buy.

## Dorm Residents

Itasca Community College provides Internet access to dorm residents via a pair of cable modems that are situated on a physically discrete network. Students in the dorms do not attach or have direct access to the campus network.

Because several privately owned personal computers attach to the dorm network, students are required to provide a hardware or software firewall and anti-virus protection on their computers.

There are no printers provided on the dorm network, so students may wish to bring their own printer to campus or, save their documents for printing on the campus network when they access it in a campus computer lab.

### ***Requirements for Accessing the Internet in the Dorms***

Students living in **Wenger Hall** access the dorm network (and Internet) via a wired network connection. There are three network connections in each room. Your computer will need to have an Ethernet card installed in order to access the network. Most newer computers come with an integrated Ethernet card, and if not, they can be purchased for a minimal cost from any computer vendor.

Students living in **Itasca Hall** need to have a wireless Ethernet adapter in order to access the dorm network (and Internet). The Itasca Hall wireless system supports the standard 802.11g protocol, so be sure to choose an appropriate adapter. The wireless network is not encrypted, so users should take care to make sure they are not sending important private data across insecure connections.

## Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources

Itasca Community College has adopted MnSCU's Acceptable Use of Computers and Information Technology Resources, pursuant to MnSCU Board of Directors Policy and System Procedures (Chapter 5 – Administration, 5.22.1). The complete text of this policy and procedure may be found at <http://www.itascacc.edu/it/aup.php>.

All users of information technology resources are responsible for abiding with the terms of the above mentioned policies and procedures.

