



To Incoming Optometry Students

June 2008

Welcome to Pacific University! Students at the University find the ability to access the Internet an invaluable tool in achieving academic excellence. The Internet is used for research, class announcements, assignments, posting of grades, and communications with colleagues. The importance of the Internet in the student's overall educational and professional experience cannot be over emphasized. Because of this, a laptop is required for all incoming Optometry students.

All classrooms, conference rooms, and the libraries are Internet accessible through the use of 802.11b/g wireless or wired connections. Internet access in the surrounding community is abundant; there are many commercial Internet Service Providers available to meet your off campus connectivity needs.

What kind of laptop should an Optometry student bring to Pacific University?

The College of Optometry requires all incoming students to possess and use a PC laptop in their studies. Pacific University supports the use of both PC and Apple computers, but please remember most applications and institutions you encounter in the marketplace are PC based. The purchase of a computer is a significant expense, which is why we recommend buying a system well-suited for the applications you will encounter at Pacific University and in your professional life after graduation. Financial Aid is generally available to assist with technology needs in amounts up to \$2,000 through the first year "books & supplies" award. This financial aid award can also be used to purchase software, printers, and other peripheral devices.

Technology continues to advance at a very rapid pace, so Pacific University recommends you acquire the best laptop you can afford. Since purchasing a computer directly from the manufacturer provides the best value, Pacific University has a special arrangement with Dell Computer to offer discounted systems that meet or exceed our recommended specifications below. Visit the University Information Services web portal, <http://www.pacificu.edu/uis/> for direct links to Dell offers; you are, however, free to purchase your system from whomever you like. Our web site can also direct you to software, printers and more at prices generally lower than other commercial retail Internet sites.

Your new computer should have at a minimum the **English language version** of Microsoft Windows XP Professional Service Pack 2 operating system. The newest operating system from Microsoft is called *Vista*; though this software is more advanced, Pacific University cannot guarantee that it will seamlessly interoperate with all the campus applications you may encounter during the 2007/2008 academic year. The standard productivity software in use at Pacific University is Microsoft Office. There are several versions of Microsoft Office available but we recommend at the minimum, Microsoft Office 2003 Professional Academic Edition which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook. Microsoft 2007 is also acceptable. ***Microsoft Works is not compatible with Office.*** Please do not arrive at the University and expect to use Works, which comes installed with many new systems, as it will only cause you distress. Also, be sure to purchase a multi-year extended warranty on your computer system.

Recommended PC System Specifications:

- Intel Core 2 Duo Processor or greater
- 2 GB RAM installed¹
- 60 GB hard drive or larger
- Ethernet LAN enabled and Ethernet cable (cable usually purchased separately from the computer)
- 802.11b/g built-in wireless
- DVD-ROM/CD-RW minimum
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional SP2 or Microsoft Vista²
- Microsoft Office 2003 Professional Academic (Includes: Word, Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Access) or Microsoft Office 2007 Home & Student Edition (Includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)³
- 3 year minimum on-site warranty/service contract

Recommended but not required:

- Carrying case
- Printer for home use⁴
- 128 MB or higher USB (Flash) drive



To help offset your costs, Pacific University provides each student with a licensed version of Symantec Norton Anti-Virus. The license is free and valid as long as you are a registered Pacific University student. Also, we have an agreement with a local educational technology consortium, **TechHead.org**, to offer steeply discounted software to our students. You can purchase Microsoft Office and more from their web site, www.TechHead.org using your PUNet ID.

For additional information contact the Pacific University Technology Information Center at help@pacificu.edu or call 503.352.3132. You are also welcome to contact the Chief Information Officer at cio@pacificu.edu.

¹ Microsoft Vista requires 1GB to operate effectively. To run Microsoft Office in Vista or other heavy-weight applications, we recommend an additional 1GB of RAM for best results.

² Vista may not work smoothly with all existing campus technologies and software until January 2008.

³ Students can purchase Microsoft Office at a significant discount from TechHead.org.

⁴ Pacific University provides both black & white and color laser printers on campus for student use on a cost-per-copy-basis. Current printer rates are \$.05 per page for black & white and \$.25 per page for color.