



To Incoming Physical Therapy Students

April 2008

Welcome to Pacific University! Because internet access is an integral part of the School of Physical Therapy curriculum, *a laptop is required for all incoming Physical Therapy students.*

The Internet can be accessed in all Pacific University classrooms, conference rooms and libraries via 802.11b/g wireless or wired connections. Internet access in the surrounding community is abundant and there are many commercial Internet Service Providers available to meet your off campus connectivity needs.

What kind of laptop should a Physical Therapy student bring to Pacific University?

The School of Physical Therapy requires all incoming students to possess and use a PC laptop in their studies. Pacific University supports both PC and Apple computers, although in general the PC is a more universally supported platform.

Financial Aid is generally available to assist with technology needs 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. Pacific University has a special arrangement with Dell to offer discounted systems that meet or exceed our recommended specifications below. Visit the University Information Services webpage, <http://www.pacificu.edu/uis/> for direct links to Dell offers. Our web site can also direct you to software, printers and more at prices generally lower than other commercial retail Internet sites. You are, however, free to purchase your system, software, and peripherals from whomever you like.

Your new computer should have at a minimum Microsoft Windows XP Professional Service Pack 2 operating system or Windows Vista Home, Home Premium, Professional or Ultimate (**English language version**). The standard productivity software in use at Pacific University is Microsoft Office. There are several versions of Microsoft Office available but we recommend, at least, the Microsoft Office 2007 Home & Student edition, which includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Many students have Microsoft Works pre-installed on computers that they purchase and believe that it will be compatible with Microsoft Office. *Microsoft Works is not compatible with Office.* Also, be sure to purchase a multi-year extended warranty on your computer system.

Recommended Minimum PC System Specifications:

- Intel Core 2 Duo Processor or greater
- 2 GB RAM installed¹
- 80 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 Vista (Home, Home Premium, Business or Ultimate).
- Microsoft Office 2007 Home & Student Edition (Includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)²
- 3 year minimum on-site warranty/service contract

Recommended but not required:

- Carrying case
- Printer for home use³
- 1 GB or higher USB (Flash) drive

To help offset your costs, Pacific University provides each student with a licensed version of Symantec Anti-Virus, available for download upon your arrival. The license is free and valid as long as you are a registered Pacific University student. We also 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 Vice President of Information Services at vpinfo@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 Students can purchase Microsoft Office at a significant discount from TechHead.org.

³ 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.