



To Incoming Arts & Sciences Students

February 2007

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, Pacific University strongly recommends that all incoming Arts & Sciences students have their own personal computer.

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 computer should an Arts & Sciences student buy?

This is a very tough question to answer because it usually comes down to a choice between a Personal Computer (PC) or an Apple Computer, and a laptop computer or a desktop computer. Pacific University supports a heterogeneous computing environment which allows any modern computer to connect to the campus network infrastructure. The type of computer is a personal choice generally reflecting your personal preference and chosen field of study. A recent survey of Arts & Sciences students shows that 98% of the students have their own personal computer with the majority possessing a laptop for greater flexibility on campus. 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.

There are many excellent sources from which to acquire your laptop or desktop computer. Purchasing a computer directly from a computer manufacturer provides the best value. At Pacific University we recommend acquiring your laptop or desktop computer from Dell Computer or Apple Computer, though other computer manufacturers such as HP, Gateway Computer, Acer Computer, Toshiba, or IBM are acceptable. *No matter what brand your purchase, be sure that the system you buy meets the minimum specifications below.*

University Information Services has a web site portal to help you purchase a new Dell or Apple computer, <http://www.pacificu.edu/uis/>. Offers listed on this site are made directly from the manufacturer and meet or exceed Pacific University's recommendations. This web site can also direct you to printers, software, and more at prices generally lower than other commercial retail Internet sites; however, you are free to purchase your system from wherever you like.

Your new computer should have at a minimum the **English language version** of Microsoft Windows XP Professional Service Pack 2 operating system or the Apple OS 10.4 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 the latest version of Microsoft Office available for your PC or Apple. *Microsoft Works and Apple Works are 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.

Graduate programs in the Colleges of Optometry and Health Professions (Schools of Physician Assistant Studies, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Professional Psychology, Dental Health Science, and Pharmacy) require a PC laptop. The College of Education, recognizing the importance of a laptop computer, strongly recommends a laptop for their students and allows them their brand of choice.

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

Apple System Specifications:

- Intel Core 2 Duo Processor or greater
- 2 GB RAM installed
- 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
- Super Drive DVD-RW
- Apple OS 10.4 or greater
- Microsoft Office 2004 (Includes: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Entourage)³
- 3 year minimum on-site warranty/service contract

Recommended for all students:

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

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.