

Frequently Asked Questions About Computers At Lewis & Clark College

Do I need a personal computer at Lewis & Clark?

Computers are not a mandatory purchase for Lewis & Clark College students, though you will be required to use a computer to complete some class assignments. While there are public computers available on campus, many students appreciate the convenience of having a personal computer, as well as the ability to customize their computer for their own needs.

What computing facilities are available on campus?

There are more than 100 Macintosh and Windows computers in the public computer labs. In addition, many departments have discipline-specific labs for teaching and student projects. All residence hall rooms include Internet access for residents, as do the study areas in Watzek Library.

What computer can I buy that will last me for four years?

Below are recommendations for systems that we believe will meet the needs of a typical computer user and adequately support current versions of our recommended software suite (Microsoft Office, e-mail, web browsers, etc.), for the next four years.

- 4GB of RAM is recommended for Windows 7 and Mac OS 10.6
- At least a 250GB hard drive. We strongly recommend upgrading to 320GB or larger if you plan to store audio or video files on your computer.
- Built-in CD-RW. A CD-RW/DVD combo drive or separate CD-RW and DVD drives recommended.
- Built-in 10/100 Ethernet. 802.11b/g/n wireless is a recommended upgrade for laptop users.
- A 2.3GHz processor or faster is recommended.
- Windows 7 Home or Professional Edition; Mac OS X.6 operating system for Macintosh.
- Microsoft Office 2010 for PC; Microsoft Office 2011 for Macintosh.

Should I get a laptop or a desktop?

Students tell us that they find a laptop computer very useful. Laptops are portable and flexible in small spaces, such as a residence hall room, but are more vulnerable to theft and cost more than a comparable desktop. Desktops are more powerful and expandable, but do not offer portability and use a larger amount of desk space.

Should I get a Mac or a PC?

We recommend that you buy what you know. Both platforms are supported on campus, and most students will work with both platforms during their time at Lewis & Clark. Your new computer should be a tool to assist you. Buying what you know will ease the burden of having to learn a new system.

What software do I need?

We support Microsoft Office 2007 or higher (Windows) or Microsoft Office 2008 or higher (Macintosh). If you prefer to use another word processor and plan to print in the public computing labs, we may be unable to support you. The College requires an up-to-date anti-virus program. *Currently enrolled students can download Symantec Endpoint Protection for free from the Information Technology website*. If you do not install approved anti-virus software, you will not be able to connect to the campus network.

For a complete list of supported software, go to http://www.lclark.edu/information_technology/client_services/ supported_software/.

We strongly recommend that you bring your system/software restore disks and the disks for any software that you have installed on your computer so that we may assist you in case a system re-installation is required.

How do I access the Internet at Lewis & Clark?

Access to the Internet and related services (e-mail, web, etc.) is available in all residence hall rooms and library study areas, as well as the public computing labs. In addition, your OS (Operating System) must have all current security patches and updates, and your computer must have up-to-date and supported anti-virus software. Once on campus you will be required to authenticate your computer in order to access the campus network.

For more information, call the Information Technology Help Desk (503.768.7225) or go to

http://www.lclark.edu/information_technology/network_and_telecommunication_services/network/get_connected/.

What about wireless?

WiFi Internet access is available in all academic and residential locations around campus.

Will I be able to connect through my console?

Network access is available on campus for your TiVo, media server, or gaming console. You can request connectivity at https://www.lclark.edu/information_technology/network_and_tele communication_services/network/get_connected/console_tivo_video_connect/index.php.

Will I need my own printer?

Laser printers are available in the public computing labs. Each student receives 250 free sheets of laser printing per semester. After that, each sheet costs 5 cents. These additional sheets may be purchased online or in the Student & Departmental Account Services office. For more information on lab printing, visit https://www.lclark.edu/information_technology/client_services/labs/printing/index.php. Many students, however, prefer the convenience of having their own printer. Since space is limited in the residence halls, we recommend a low-cost inkjet printer.

Can I get help using my computer? What support options are available?

The IT Help Desk, located on the first floor of Watzek Library provides face-to-face support for all forms of computer problems. E-mail consult (consult@lclark.edu) with your non-emergency computing questions, or call 503.738.7225 to reach the help desk

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Students and parents can contact Information Technology with questions about computer purchasing. Send an e-mail to consult@lclark.edu, call 503.768.7253, or visit our website – http://www.lclark.edu/information_technology/client_services/computer_purchase_program/. For general computing questions, please contact the IT Help Desk at 503.768.7225.