

# Bringing a computer to St. Norbert College

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You are not required to have your own computer, but if you decide to bring a computer for use in a residence hall room, here's what you need to know.

*Note:* For links to all web addresses referenced in this document, see the online version of this document at <http://www.snc.edu/techsupport/students/bringcomputer.html>.

## Computer requirements

### Networking

The only hardware requirement is a network/Ethernet interface to connect to the campus network, and a network (CAT5 or CAT6 Ethernet) cable. Cables are available from the Help Desk in JMS 222, at the St. Norbert College Bookstore, and at most computer and office supply stores. We recommend buying a longer cable, so that you can use it throughout your residence at the College, regardless of where you live. For specific hardware purchase recommendations, see the next page.

### Operating System

Technology Support Services supports only Windows XP (any edition), Windows Vista (Home Premium edition or Business edition recommended), and Macintosh OS 10.3 (Panther) or later. If you are given a choice when buying a computer, we would recommend Windows XP over Windows Vista.

### Antivirus Software

In order to connect a Windows computer to the Internet, our setup process requires you to install the College's version of McAfee VirusScan (free) and scan for viruses. All other antivirus software **must** be uninstalled. McAfee VirusScan will be kept up to date for you automatically. If your computer becomes infected with a virus, it may be disconnected from the College network until it has been cleaned.

*Do **not** purchase any anti-virus programs or subscriptions for a computer that you're bringing to campus!*

### Restore/Resource CDs

When buying a computer, be sure to get whatever "restore" or "resource" CDs are available. These disks contain all of the information necessary to restore your computer to the condition it was in when you got it and restore functionality in the event of a major system problem. When setting up your computer for the first time, if you are given the opportunity to create restore CDs, do so.

When you bring your computer to campus, be sure to bring along all of the CDs and manuals that came with it: the "restore" CD (or restore procedure instructions), operating system CD, "resource" CD with drivers for your hardware, and software that came with the computer. The restore CD or restore procedure instructions are required in order to use our repair service.

**Teacher Education laptop requirement:** See <http://www.snc.edu/education/technology.html> for details.

## Choosing a computer

A computer is a major purchase. Our goal is to help you purchase one that will stand up to the demands of college life and last you throughout your residence at St. Norbert College. Some general considerations:

### What will you use it for?

Obviously you'll want to write papers & go online, but consider other things like playing video games, storing digital photos, editing videos, etc. What programs will you use & what are the computer requirements for those programs?

### Windows or Mac?

This is a personal choice, and you should choose whichever platform you're more comfortable with. Our campus supports both, and we have both Windows and Mac computers in our labs, so you will always have access to the other platform if needed. Your major may also affect your decision. For example, Education majors are required to have Macintosh laptops, while Business majors primarily use Windows.

## **Laptop or desktop?**

It really depends on your personal preference. Think about if you want to carry it around with you, take it with you every time you go home, etc. Although desktops are generally less expensive, most students bring laptops. Wireless access is available in the Library, Campus Center, Union (including the cafeteria), Bemis International Center, and most residence hall lounges, classrooms, and other parts of academic buildings.

## **Business-class vs. consumer-class computers**

Business-class computers are built from higher-quality components than most consumer-class computers (those commonly sold at retail stores like Best Buy), and are generally more durable, more upgradeable, and have a longer life expectancy.

# **Buying a new computer: Recommendations**

## **Windows**

### **Operating Systems**

We support Windows XP (any edition) and Windows Vista (Home Premium edition or Business edition recommended). Again, if you have a choice, we recommend Windows XP over Windows Vista.

### **Hardware**

We recommend a computer with at least an Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 2GB RAM, and a 60GB hard drive for the best experience and longevity. Your specific needs may vary depending upon what you use your computer for.

## **Macintosh/Apple**

### **Operating Systems**

We support OS 10.3 (Panther) or later.

### **Hardware**

We recommend a computer with at least an Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 1GB RAM, and a 60GB hard drive for the best experience and longevity. Again, your specific needs may vary depending upon what you use your computer for.

## **Hardware questions/considerations**

When buying a computer, there a number of choices to be made among various components such as processors, memory, hard drives, CD/DVD drives, etc. For an explanation of some of those options, see [Buying a new computer: Hardware questions/considerations](http://www.snc.edu/techsupport/students/computerhardware.html), available on our web site at <http://www.snc.edu/techsupport/students/computerhardware.html>.

## **St. Norbert College online stores**

St. Norbert College has online stores with Apple, Dell, and HP that provide educational discounts for computers. Recommended configurations can be found at each site, as well as configurations that can be customized to suit individual needs. The selected models at the Apple store are recommended by our Teacher Education program. To connect to the Apple store, you'll need to log in with your 6-character St. Norbert College network login ID and password.

For links to our online stores, see the online version of this document at <http://www.snc.edu/techsupport/students/bringcomputer.html>.

## **Other educational discounts**

Many computer manufacturers offer educational discounts for high school and college students. If you shop at our online stores, you'll be sure to get these discounts. If you're shopping somewhere other than one of our online stores, don't forget to ask about these discounts.

# Software

## Anti-virus software

Again, do not purchase anti-virus programs or subscriptions for a Windows computer that you're bringing to campus, because you will be required to install *the College's* McAfee VirusScan software (free) in order to connect your computer to the Internet. All other antivirus software **must** be uninstalled.

## Microsoft Office

Save money! If you're going to purchase Microsoft Office, be sure to check out our discounted Microsoft software purchase programs first. These are probably the lowest prices you'll find for Microsoft Office. For more information, see the page *Buying Software: A Guide for College Students, Faculty, and Staff*, at <http://www.snc.edu/techsupport/docs/software.html>.

## Anti-spyware software

We strongly recommend that you use anti-spyware software. We use these several free programs. Links to download them can be found on our *Downloads* page at <http://www.snc.edu/techsupport>. Along with viruses, malicious spyware programs are the biggest problems we see on student computers. Whether you're on or off campus, you should use these programs to help keep your computer free of spyware.

## Other software

To learn how to get educational discounts on other software, see the page *Buying Software: A Guide for College Students, Faculty, and Staff*, at <http://www.snc.edu/techsupport/docs/software.html>.

# Computer setup & registration (on campus)

To access the Internet from your room, you will first need to set up your computer. Once you connect your computer to the network hub or jack in your room & turn it on, open your web browser and you should see the *St. Norbert College Network Registration* page (if that page doesn't open automatically, go to <http://netreg.snc.edu/>). The instructions on that page will walk you through the setup process, in which you will install the College's McAfee VirusScan software (free), scan your computer for viruses, and register your computer. Once you complete those steps, your Internet connection will be active.

By accepting a connection to the St. Norbert College computer network, you agree to adhere to the *Residence Hall Networking Terms and Conditions, Computing and Networking Appropriate Use Policy*, and *File Sharing guidelines*, available at <http://www.snc.edu/techsupport>. If you do not adhere to these conditions, you will be subject to losing your network connection privileges.

# Support

Technology Support Services provides assistance during all steps of the connection process. We will make our best effort to help you connect your computer to our network, however, there may be computers that simply will not work with our network.

# Assistance and questions

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Technology Support Help Desk at (920) 403-HELP (4357) or [helpdesk@snc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@snc.edu).