



## Purchasing a Computer to Use at Elizabethtown College

This information was prepared by the Elizabethtown College Information and Technology Services (ITS) Department in March 2009 for students entering in the fall of 2009. Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information. <http://www.etown.edu/its>

### Should I buy a Macintosh or a Windows-based computer?

Information and Technology Services (ITS) supports both Windows-based computers and Macintosh computers on campus. 90% of the computers on campus are Windows-based computers and therefore 90% of our support goes towards these computers. ITS will help individuals with Macintosh computers to the best of our ability, but our knowledge of the Macintosh operating systems and applications is not as developed as our knowledge of Windows operating systems and applications.

### Recommendations

We do not recommend a specific computer brand. Therefore, we recommend using an independent reviewer of manufacturers. We generally recommend [Consumer Reports](#) for their reviews. Pay particular attention to the **repair history** of the various brands. Any of the brands that have been reviewed should work with our campus network.

Laptops accounted for 90% of all new student computers in the fall of 2008. Students find that they are more convenient to use throughout the campus and are easier to take home during breaks.

Elizabethtown College has purchasing arrangements with both Dell and Apple. You may purchase a computer at a small discount (5-8%) from these vendors by going to <http://www.etown.edu/computers>.

Additionally, a purchasing agreement has been made with JourneyEd (<http://www.journeyed.com/select/>) for discounts on academic versions of a variety of software. We recommend purchasing Microsoft Office through JourneyEd as it is significantly cheaper than purchasing the software with a computer or at a retail store.

We recommend the same specifications for students as we purchase for our faculty and administrators. They are very good computers that should last for four years. We also recommend getting a 3-4 year onsite service warranty with protection against accidental damage. These systems are usually a little more expensive than people expect, but are worth the difference in price as the lower priced systems may not last for four years or may only have a limited warranty.

# Recommended Computer Specifications for the Elizabethtown Campus Network

This information was updated in March 2009 for students entering in the fall of 2009

Windows-based Computers			Macintosh	
	Recommended Specifications (new computer)	Minimum Specifications** (used computer)	Recommended Specifications (new computer)	Minimum Specifications** (used computer)
<b>Laptop Processor</b>	Intel Core 2 Duo – 2.0 GHz+	Pentium 4 or Pentium M	Intel Core 2 Duo – 2.0GHz+	G4
<b>Desktop Processor</b>	Intel Core 2 Duo – 2.0 GHz+ or Intel Pentium D – 3.0GHz+	Pentium 4	Intel Core 2 Duo – 2.0GHz+	G4
<b>Memory</b>	2 GB	1 GB	2 GB	1 GB
<b>Hard Drive</b>	80 GB – 160GB	40 GB	80GB – 160GB	40 GB
<b>Media</b>	CD-RW/DVD or CD-RW/DVD+-RW	CD-ROM	Combo Drive or Super Drive	CD-ROM
<b>Wireless for Laptops</b>	802.11 b/g card		Built in	
<b>Laptop Warranty</b>	3-4 year onsite next business day with insurance against drops and spills (eg. Dell's CompleteCare)		3-4yr. AppleCare Protection Plan	
<b>Desktop Warranty</b>	3-4 year onsite next business day		3-4 yr. AppleCare Protection Plan	
<b>Operating System *</b>	Microsoft Windows Vista Home Basic or Home Premium Click <a href="#">here</a> for a comparison of Vista editions.	Windows XP Home*	MAC OS X 10.5	MAC OS X 10.3
<b>Required Application</b>	Microsoft Office 2007 (Home & Student, Standard, or Professional) Click <a href="#">here</a> for a comparison of the Office suites		Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac	
	<a href="#">Click here</a> for good prices on software for Elizabethtown College students.			
<b>Network Adapter and Cable</b>	A network (Ethernet) 10/100 or 10/100/1000 port will be standard on virtually all new computers. We recommend that students purchase a 25 foot network cable with RJ45 connectors. These cables are available at the college store or other electronics retailers.			
<b>Required Antivirus software</b>	All computers connected to the campus network MUST run the college's Enterprise Editions of Symantec (Norton) Antivirus and Webroot Antispyware software. The college purchases this software and will supply it free during the fall orientation. If purchasing a new computer this summer, get a free trial version of Norton or McAfee to use until the fall orientation.			

**\* We DO NOT recommend upgrading an existing computer to Windows Vista.**

Windows Vista should be installed when a new computer is purchased.

**\*\* A note regarding minimum specifications:**

A computer with the minimum specifications will work on the campus network at this time. We CAN NOT guarantee that we will continue to support these minimum specifications for the next four years. In fact, we believe that computers that don't meet the recommended specifications should be upgraded within two years.

**For further information about your computer purchase contact:**

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