

New Computer Recommendations for Alverno Students 2007-2008

Alverno students have access to computers in the Computer Center, computer classrooms and other areas on campus. You may decide, however, to purchase your own personal computer. If so, here are some recommendations and guidelines.

In January 2007, Microsoft released Vista, a new version of its Windows operating systems. Most new computers ship with Vista already installed. Vista is not compatible with certain applications used at Alverno. Therefore, Windows XP is still our standard operating system. Vista is currently being evaluated for installation at a future date.

Desktop or Laptop? Things to consider.

Desktop		Laptop
Not portable		Portable. Can be used at many locations on campus. Check with your instructor if they will allow you to bring it to class. If your laptop has a wireless card, many areas on campus have wireless access.
Lots of parts to be set up.		All components are contained in one unit.
Takes up a lot of space on a desk.		Takes up very little space on a desk.
Larger more comfortable keyboard	VS.	Smaller keyboard
Difficult to misplace or steal.		Easily stolen and misplaced. We recommend the purchase of a locking cable for security.
More powerful and less expensive to purchase.		Less powerful and more expensive to purchase.
Easy to install new and replace old/bad components.		More expensive to repair. Requires trip to service center.
More powerful with larger hard drives.		Less powerful with more limited hard drive space.

New Desktop Computer Selection

Recommended Configuration	Minimum Configuration
<p>PC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the following 2 Processor types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intel® Core™2 Duo (1.8 GHz) ▪ AMD Athlon™ 64 X2 (2.2 GHz) • 1 GB RAM • 160 GB Hard Drive or larger • Graphics Card with 256 MB video memory • Multiformat DVD±RW/CD-RW drive • Windows Vista 	<p>PC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the following 4 Processor types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AMD Athlon 64 (2.0 GHz) ▪ Intel Pentium D (2.8 GHz) ▪ Intel Celeron D (3.06 GHz) ▪ Intel Pentium 4 (3.0 GHz) • 512 MB RAM • 120 GB Hard Drive • Graphics Card with 128 MB video memory • CD-RW drive • Windows Vista
<p>Mac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 1 GB RAM • 160 GB hard drive • SuperDrive 8x • Mac OS 10.4 	<p>Mac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.25 GHz processor • 512 MB RAM • 160 GB hard drive • 24x combo drive • Mac OS 10.4
<p>Note: All new Macs come with Built-in 54-Mbps AirPort Extreme wireless networking (802.11g standard), built-in Bluetooth 2.0+EDR, and built-in 10/100/1000BASE-T Gigabit Ethernet. Most new PCs come with built-in Intel 10/100 Mbps Ethernet networking interface with RJ-45 connector; V.92 high-speed data/fax modem.</p>	

New Laptop Computer Selection

Recommended Configuration	Minimum Configuration
<p>PC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of these 3 Processor Types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intel Core Duo (1.66 GHz) ▪ Pentium dual core (1.66 GHz) ▪ AMD Turion 64 X2(1.66 GHz) • 1 GB RAM • 160 GB Hard Drive • Windows Vista • CD-RW/DVD Drive • 2 USB ports • lithium ion rechargeable battery 	<p>PC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of these 2 Processor Types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pentium M (1.5 GHz) ▪ Celeron M (1.5 GHz) • 512 MB RAM • 80 GB Hard Drive • Windows Vista • CD-ROM Drive • 2 USB ports • lithium ion rechargeable battery

<p>Mac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0 GHz or faster processor • 1 GB RAM • 120 GB hard disk • Combo Drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW) • Mac OS X 10.4 • lithium ion rechargeable battery 	<p>Mac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.83 GHz, or faster processor • 1 GB RAM • 80 GB hard disk • Combo Drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW) • Mac OS X 10.4 • lithium ion rechargeable battery
--	---

Note: All new Macs come with Built-in 54-Mbps AirPort Extreme wireless networking (802.11g standard), built-in Bluetooth 2.0+EDR, and built-in 10/100/1000BASE-T Gigabit Ethernet. Most new laptops come with built-in Intel 10/100 Mbps Ethernet networking interface with RJ-45 connector; V.92 high-speed data/fax modem.

Other Recommendations:

- Surge protector or uninterruptible power supply.
- Extended warranty.
- Check your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy to see if your computer is covered for damage or theft. Or consider purchasing accident insurance when you buy your laptop.

Removable Storage Media:

To transport your files between computers, we recommend the purchase of a USB Memory drive (also known as a “flash,” “pen”, “jump” or “thumb” drive).

For more information about what to look for when purchasing a computer, one source of information is PC World’s website. Two helpful articles are “How to Buy a Desktop PC” <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,125649/article.html>, and “How to Buy a Laptop” <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,125647/article.html>.

Apple <http://www.apple.com/education/shop/> , Dell <http://www.delluniversity.com/>, Lenovo <http://www.lenovo.com/us/en/> and Gateway http://www.gateway.com/education/hi_ed/ all offer educational discounts towards the purchase of computers.

Software

Microsoft released a new version of their Office suite (Word, Excel and PowerPoint). We are currently evaluating Office 2007 for installation at a future date. However, you will be able to access your Office 2007 documents in any of Alverno computer labs. We have installed a compatibility pack that will open Office 2007 documents. More information is available by visiting this website:

http://depts.alverno.edu/ac/pages/Office2007_2003_File_Compatibility.pdf.

Software packages commonly used on campus include:

- Microsoft Office 2003. The MS Office 2007 compatibility software has been installed in all the computer labs which allows you to open your Office 2007 Word, Excel and PowerPoint files in Office 2003.
- Inspiration 8

While you don’t have to purchase these software packages, you will probably use them for your classes. They can be purchased with a student discount in the Campus Bookstore, or you can choose to use them only when you are in the Computer Center.

Microsoft Office can be purchased through the Microsoft Student Select Program. Under this program Alverno students can purchase the following software at significant discounts:

- MS Office 2007 Enterprise
- MS Office 2007 Professional Plus
- MS Office 2007 Standard Suite
- MS Office 2004 Mac Standard
- MS Office 2004 Mac Professional

See <http://depts.alverno.edu/ac/pages/studentselect.html> for more details.

Internet Security

Virus Protection:

We strongly recommend the use of antivirus software to help protect your machine from malicious programs. **If you will be living on campus, you are required to use Symantec Anti Virus which is provided by Alverno's Technology Services department.** Check the Addendum below for additional information about antivirus software.

- Norton AntiVirus offers a 15-day trial, and full versions, which can be downloaded from:
http://shop.symantecstore.com/store/symnahho/en_US/ContentTheme/ThemeID.106300/pbPage.Trialware_en_US Click on PC Security
- McAfee VirusScan is another leading antivirus software. More information can be found on their website: <http://us.mcafee.com/root/downloads.asp>
- AVG offers a 30-day trial version of their software. Download the trial version at <http://www.grisoft.com/doc/downloads-products/us/crp/0?prd=triavw>.
- Avast offers a free version of their anti-virus software for non-commercial home users. Download the software at <http://www.avast.com/eng/download-avast-home.html> Registration is required.

It is also important to remember to keep the subscriptions current on your antivirus software. A current subscription gives you access to the latest updates to protect your machine.

Spyware:

We also suggest that you have some sort of spyware removal tool. Both Norton and McAfee offer spyware removal tools that are packaged along with their antivirus software.

- AdAware is a free spyware removal tool which can be downloaded from:
http://www.lavasoftusa.com/download_and_buy/product_comparison_chart.php
- Windows Defender is a free download from Microsoft for spyware removal and realtime protection available here:
<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.msp>
- SpyBot Search & Destroy is another popular (and free) tool available at:
<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/download/index.html>
- Sunbelt Software CounterSpy 15 day fully functional free trial:
<http://www.sunbelt-software.com/Home-Home-Office/Counterspy/>

Firewalls:

For Internet and general network security, we recommend the use of a firewall which minimizes unauthorized and/or malicious access to a computer. Alverno College has a network-based firewall in place that provides a level of campus-wide protection. However, users of the Windows XP Operating System can benefit from a "built-in" firewall which will provide an additional layer of protection.

- To use the Windows XP firewall, it must be enabled. For instructions on enabling the firewall go to:
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;283673&sd=tech>

- Microsoft has released Service Pack 2 (SP2) for Windows XP that provides better security protection while online. Information about SP2, how and where to download, and how to manage your security settings can be found at: <http://update.microsoft.com/windowsupdate/v6/default.aspx?ln=en-us>

For users with operating systems other than Windows XP, please consider the use of a free downloadable firewall. There are several available, including

- Zone Alarm which can be downloaded via the following link: <http://www.zonelabs.com/store/content/company/products/znalm/freeDownload.jsp>
- Tiny Personal Firewall which can be downloaded from: <http://www.webmasterfree.com/tpfw.html>.
- Comodo personal firewall: <http://www.personalfirewall.comodo.com/>

Windows Vista does include a built-in firewall but we recommend the use of one of the free firewalls listed above. Read more about Vista's firewall at <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,128834-c,vistalonghorn/article.html>.

Keeping your computer secure will benefit everybody on the Alverno network.

Internet Access

On-Campus:

Students who live on campus can get Internet access by connecting to the campus network. An Ethernet networking interface is required. See the "Addendum for Austin Hall and Clare Hall Resident Students" below for requirements. Application forms are available in Austin Hall.

For students who have a notebook computer with wireless capabilities, wireless access is available in:

Austin Hall Pipeline
Austin Hall Mug
Commons
Computer Center
Kellogg A
LA 3rd floor off elevator
Library
TL Conference Center
2nd floor near gym (right outside of fitness center)

Off-Campus:

If you live off campus, we recommend that you have Internet access so you can use the Interactive Online system (IOL) to register for classes, the Diagnostic Digital Portfolio, your Alverno email, Educator (course management software), Library materials and other resources, any time you need them. You will need to have an Internet Service Provider (ISP). There are a variety of options offered by ISPs including high speed cable, DSL or dial-up service. For some advice on Internet Access and selecting an ISP, see: <http://www.cnet.com/internet>

Addendum for Austin Hall & Clare Hall Resident Students

Application Form

To connect your computer to the campus network, you will need to complete a Residence Hall Network Connection Request Form when you arrive on campus in the fall. Because the form requires the Jack ID# in your room, you won't be able to complete the form until you're on campus and in your room. Forms will be available in Austin Hall.

Integrated 10/100 Ethernet or Network Port

Ethernet/Network ports are standard on most new computers. If this is not already included with your computer, you will need to purchase and install a 10/100Mbps Ethernet network interface card (NIC) in your computer.

Patch Cable

You will also need a network cable (CAT 5) to connect your computer to the network jack in your room. Please note that phone cables will not work.

Network cards and cables can be purchased with most new computers, locally from Milwaukee PC, Best Buy, or from other computer supply stores. Network cables are available for sale at Alverno's bookstore.

Installation

You are responsible for the correct configuration of the network card and software in your computer.

Security

Residents who connect their personal computers to the Alverno college network will be provided with Symantec antivirus software, free of charge. **This software will only be provided to students in the resident hall. Students who are not residents will still need to purchase antivirus software.**

Once you have completed your Network Account Request Form, you will receive an email message with instructions on how to obtain/install Norton Antivirus. Residents will be **required** to install the provided antivirus software on their computers. They will also be required to maintain **current virus definitions**, and to install all Microsoft critical updates as they become available. Directions for running updates and checking virus definition files for Norton AntiVirus can be found at: <http://depts.alverno.edu/ac/pages/resnet.htm>.