

Catawba College Information Technology
Information About Student Personal Computers
For Academic Year 2011-2012
Last Revision Date: April 12, 2011

SPECIFICATIONS FOR STUDENT PERSONAL COMPUTERS

Item	Required	Recommended
CPU (processing speed)	~1.0GHz	~2.0GHz or higher; using Intel Core Duo processors on campus;
Memory (RAM)	512 MB for Windows XP 1 GB for Windows Vista or 7	1 GB for Windows XP 2 GB for Windows Vista or 7
Microsoft Windows Operating System	Windows XP or Vista or 7	Windows 7 Professional or XP Professional
Apple Operating System (OS)	Versions of Mac OS X up through 10.6 are supported	
Laptop vs. Tablet vs. Desktop		A laptop or tablet PC is recommended over a desktop because their mobility allows them to go where you go. Tablet PCs excel at capturing handwritten class notes in an electronic form, but are typically more expensive than a comparably equipped laptop.
Network Connectivity	Ethernet card and Ethernet cable to connect to wired network in residence halls	Laptop/tablet PC with 802.11a/b/g wireless network card to connect to campus wireless network
Hard Drive	40GB	80GB or more
Media Drive	combination drive that can read and write (aka "burn") CDs and read DVDs (DVD-R/CD-RW); more and more software is being distributed via DVD (e.g. Windows Vista Business edition)	combination drive that can read and write (aka "burn") CDs and DVDs (DVD-RW/CD-RW)
Graphics card		DirectX 9.0 compatible graphics card
Video memory		At least 128MB
USB 2.0 ports		At least 2
USB thumb drive (aka flash drive)		At least 256MB
Vendor warranty		4-year warranty
Personal productivity software		Microsoft Office

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Email address and software	Catawba College provides all current students, faculty, and staff with an @catawba.edu email address, network-based email storage, and web-based software that allows you to interact with the Catawba email system anywhere you have access to the internet.	Check your Catawba email often as it is an important official communication channel for the College. Use the CatLink 'Change Email' service to forward your Catawba email if you have another email address you check more frequently.
Virus and spyware protection software	<p>Resident students with Windows computers are required to use the virus and spyware protection software that Catawba College provides through the one-time CatNet Connect process that all Windows personal computers must go through in order to connect to the secure Catawba College network.</p> <p>Commuting students and resident students with Apple computers are required to have current virus protection software if they are connecting to the network (wireless or wired), but the software is not provided by Catawba College.</p>	We require virus and spyware protection on all computers connecting to the Catawba network.
Personal firewall software	Resident students with Windows computers are required to use the firewall provided by Catawba College through the one-time CatNet Connect process that all Windows personal computers must go through in order to connect to the secure Catawba College network.	We recommend that all students with Windows computers turn on the Windows firewall.
802.1x authentication software	<p>Resident students with Windows computers are required to use the 802.1x authentication software provided by Catawba College through the one-time CatNet Connect process that all Windows personal computers must go through in order to connect to the secure Catawba College network. This software also includes profiles that tell your computer how to connect to the Catawba wired and wireless network automatically, without any special configuration of network cards.</p> <p>Commuting students with Windows computers can download this software from the https://catnetconnect.catawba.edu web page to connect to the recommended medium-security wired and wireless networks. This software is not required to connect to the guest wireless network.</p>	<p>Recommend that students with Apple computers register their computer and set it up to work with 802.1x authentication by using the form and instructions at https://catnetconnect.catawba.edu.</p> <p>No special setup is required to connect to the guest wireless network.</p>
Network drive file space	All current students, faculty, and staff are allocated personal storage space on the H: network drive. This network drive is backed up several times per week. Network drive space can be accessed from a personally-owned computer using an FTP client or by logging into the Novell network from any Catawba College computer.	If the file is important, always keep a copy on another media (USB/CD/DVD) in addition to the copy on the H: drive. Network drives and backups are not infallible.
Backing up your PC hard drive		Regularly backup your hard drive files to another media. Hard drives fail. Files get accidentally deleted. Operating systems can get so corrupted that the hard drive needs to be rebuilt. To recover, you must have a good backup of your files from which to restore.

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Internet Service Provider (ISP)	<p>Catawba College acts as your Internet Service Provider while on-campus provided that you are willing to conform to the Acceptable Usage Policy for Computing and Network Resources found at http://www.catawba.edu/administrative/computerservices/policy.asp, and provided that your personal computing device conforms to the requirements noted in this document.</p> <p>Catawba College provides five general-purpose fully-equipped computer labs on campus for students without access to their own computer, software, and/or internet access. Two are located on the main floor of the newly renovated Corriher-Linn library, two are located on the third floor of Ketner Hall (322 and 340), and one is located on the second floor of the Hedrick Administration building (228). Ketner 322 is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.</p>	<p>Off-campus you will need an Internet Service Provider (other than Catawba College) to connect to the internet.</p> <p>If you do not wish to conform to the requirements for connecting to the Catawba College network, or you have devices that cannot conform to these requirements, students can elect to purchase internet service from a local internet service provider. Time Warner Cable can install wired Roadrunner connections in residence hall rooms. Do not purchase wireless connectivity from any internet service provider, as it will not be compatible with the wireless network already in place at Catawba College.</p>

TECHNOLOGY PURCHASING DISCOUNTS FOR CATAWBA COLLEGE COMMUNITY

Catawba College students, faculty, and staff can purchase **Microsoft and Adobe software products at a steep discount** through ScholarBuys, the reseller through whom Catawba College has its Microsoft Campus Agreements. Visit the <http://www.varsitybuys.com/Catawba-College> website for details.