

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: COMPUTERS ON CAMPUS.

Willamette University College of Law



1) Do I need to bring a computer to campus?

You are not required to have your own laptop. The J. W. Long Law Library has desktop computers available in its technology lab facilities, equipped to meet the needs of law students. Further computing resources are available throughout the university.

That said, having your own laptop is *highly* recommended. There is wireless networking (WiFi) coverage throughout the Law School, granting all law students access to both the campus-wide network and the Internet. Students with laptops therefore have significantly greater flexibility in how and where they study than students without. The accessibility of wireless networking allows students to do their research and coursework in the privacy of their own library study carrels or in the communal atmosphere of the Rick's Café lobby area. Having a computer available in class for note-taking and reference is also an advantage.

2) What uses are there for a computer on campus?

With every passing year, computer technology becomes more and more integrated into instructional methods:

- Most of your professors will want to communicate with you via e-mail. Each law student receives a willamette.edu email address.
- Willamette University provides an online course management system, called WISE, which many professors make use of to distribute course materials, facilitate class discussions, and accept the submission of coursework online.
- Willamette provides network-based printing services which enable law students to print, free-of charge, to laser printers located in the Law Library technology labs and across campus.
- Law Students have the option to take many of their exams on computers using secure examination software. The university can provide laptops to students who do not have their own during the exam periods, but numbers are limited.
- The catalogs of the J. W. Long Law Library and the Mark O. Hatfield University Library are both searchable online. The library websites also provide access to numerous online research resources and journals.
- Students frequently make use of software such as PowerPoint or Keynote when making presentations in class.
- Willamette provides all students with network-accessible, backed-up data storage for their important coursework. Currently, each law student receives four gigabytes of storage.

3) If I don't bring a computer, are there enough computers for me to use?

There are several locations where students have access to university-provided computers:

The Law Library has three computer labs open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These labs contain a total of 18 PC desktop computers running Windows 7. These computers have a variety of productivity software packages installed, including Microsoft Office, Adobe Design Suite, and Corel WordPerfect Office.

The General-Access Lab on the main campus is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as well. This lab has Windows and Macintosh computers. The Mark O. Hatfield University Library also has Windows PCs available for student use.

4) If I do want to bring a laptop, are there specific requirements?

Willamette does not require a specific brand, model, or type of computer. Willamette supports both the Windows and the Macintosh operating systems. All of the essential services Willamette provides are available on both platforms.

Virtually any computer made in the last several years will be sufficient to make use of the technology and network-based services Willamette University has to offer. That said, users running operating systems older than Windows Vista or Mac OSX 10.5 may encounter compatibility issues. As an example, the Law School's exam software will no longer be compatible with Windows XP or OSX 10.4 (or older) as of Summer 2011.

Whether your plan to purchase a new computer or are bringing a computer you already own, please consider the follow recommendations from Willamette Integrated Technology Services:

- **External hard drive:** WITS strongly recommends the purchase of an external hard drive to use for backing up your laptop. Your collection of data (coursework, pictures, etc.) is the most important part of your computer. These drives are very inexpensive these days, offer enough storage to back up your entire computer, and the newest versions of the Windows and Mac operating systems both include software tools to automate the back-up process.
- **Office software:** Containing software for word-processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, these productivity software suites are an absolute necessity for students. Microsoft Office has become the standard, but there are several other choices available (e.g. OpenOffice.org, Apple iWork, Corel WordPerfect Office). Most new computers only ship with trial or ad-supported versions of the software. Therefore, a full version is recommended. Current Willamette students can purchase Microsoft Office for Windows or Macintosh at a substantially reduced price through an arrangement with the Oregon Educational Technology Consortium:

<http://www.techhead.org/>

- **Built-in WiFi:** It's almost impossible to find a laptop without this feature, but be sure to verify that any computer is "WiFi" capable. (802.11b/g or /n compliant). Otherwise, the campus wireless network will not be available.
- **Updates:** Make sure that you've installed all the latest security patches for your operating system. Both Windows and Apple systems can be set to download updates automatically.
- **Anti-virus/Anti-malware:** Most new computers only come with a trial version of an anti-virus software product. This is not sufficient to protect your computer. Install full-version anti-virus software on your system and keep it up-to-date. WITS will provide Symantec Endpoint Protection free of charge to all students. You can download it when you register your computer on the campus network. For Windows users, we also recommend Microsoft Security Essentials, a free download from Microsoft's website. If you don't use the anti-virus software provided or recommended by WITS, you may install other anti-virus software, but it must be kept up-to-date.
- **Physical security:** As with any expensive item, laptop theft will always be a concern. WITS recommends insuring your laptop if it is possible to do so for a reasonable price. Your homeowner's insurance or renter's insurance may already provide this coverage. Also, technology is now available that can allow your laptop to be tracked on the Internet if it is stolen. WITS does not provide this technology or offer any direct support, but it can be ordered on a new laptop or added later.

Recommendations, cont.:

- **Extended warranty & accidental damage coverage:** Laptops suffer considerably more wear than desktop computers, and can be very costly to repair once they are out of warranty. Even under warranty, getting your laptop repaired can take several weeks. If you are purchasing a new laptop, WITS recommends that you consider available extended warranty, accidental damage, and next-business-day repair options, especially those offered by the manufacturer (such as Apple's AppleCare program).

5) Can I purchase a computer through the university?

The University offers educational pricing on desktop and notebook PCs and Apple computers that meet our current recommendations. You can call the Willamette Store Computer Shop at **(503) 370-6772** or visit the Willamette Store's web site for more information:

<http://www.thewillamettestore.com/>

Funding and/or financial assistance may be available to help offset the cost of purchasing a computer for educational purposes. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at gradaid@Willamette.edu or at 877.744.3736 for more information.

6) Does Willamette support smartphones, tablets, or other network devices?

All wireless-capable devices should be able to connect to Willamette's wireless network. Android, Blackberry, and iOS-based devices can be used to access your campus email, the Internet, and other data sources. Several legal reference sources have recently released apps for smartphones or for tablets such as the iPad. However, technology has not yet progressed to the point that these more portable wireless devices can truly replace the laptop for all of a student's computing and information needs.

7) How do I set up my Willamette network/email account?

If you want to open your account before you arrive on campus, you can do so online once you have received your Student ID number (it's located on your financial aid award letter):

<http://www.willamette.edu/wits/services/email/>

8) What technology help is available on campus?

WITS operates two Help Desk locations - a main desk on the undergraduate campus and a satellite desk located in the Law Library. Both desks are staffed 8AM-5PM during Fall and Spring Semesters, and the main desk remains open during the summer, winter, and spring breaks.

The staff at both Help Desk locations can assist with hardware and software issues, computer virus infections, data back-ups, set-up and use of Willamette's technology resources, scheduling of A/V equipment, and purchase recommendations if you're in the market for a new computer. More information is available online, or contact us by phone or email:

- Visit the WITS web site: <http://willamette.edu/wits>
- Send an email to: wits@willamette.edu
- Call the WITS Help Desk: **(503)370-6767**

Additionally, WITS staff are on hand during orientation to help incoming students set up their new network and email accounts, connect their computers to the wireless network, install web-based printing services, and answer any other questions that may arise.