

Computing at Cal Maritime

Access to a good computer is an essential part of your educational experience at Cal Maritime. If you plan to bring your own computer, here are a few things to consider before coming to campus.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I purchase a new computer or use my current computer?

If you already own a computer, you can bring it to campus; just make sure it meets the [Minimum Computer Hardware requirements](#). If you decide you want to purchase a new computer, use the [Recommended Computer Hardware Requirements](#) as a guideline. Both requirements are listed below.

Where should I purchase my new computer?

You can purchase your computer from any dealer. Online computer makers like Dell and Gateway offer the chance to create your own custom computer, while chain stores like Best Buy, CompUSA, Fry's and Costco give you the opportunity to see the computer up-close and give it a test drive. Whatever option you choose, here are some things to consider and questions to ask your salesperson:

- **What type of warranty comes with the computer? Where do I take it for repairs and what is the average turnaround time?**
The Cal Maritime Information Technology Department will not service personally owned computers.
- **What type of technical support plan is included with the computer?**
Also research how current customers rate their overall customer service experience when they seek help. You are responsible for the configuration and repair of whatever computer you bring to campus. As noted above, the Cal Maritime IT Department will not service personally-owned computers.
- **What operating system and software applications come pre-installed on the computer?**
If your new computer does not come with Microsoft Office, or any other software you plan to use on a regular basis, purchasing that software is an extra cost to be considered.
- **Does the computer come with a manual and the original operating system CD's and disks?**
There may be a time where you need to re-install the original system software or programs that came pre-installed on your machine, so having the original media is very important!

Recommended Hardware Requirements

As you are probably already aware, there are two basic choices of computer platforms; Apple Mac OS X and Microsoft Windows XP/Vista. Cal Maritime is primarily a Microsoft Windows environment and the computers available to students are Windows PCs. However, this does not preclude students from bringing a Mac if they so desire.

<u>Microsoft Windows</u>	<u>Apple Macintosh:</u>
Intel Dual Core processor running at 1.6 GHz or faster, or Intel Pentium 4 running at 3.0 GHz or faster Windows: XP Professional or Windows Vista	Intel Core Duo 2.0GHz or faster; or G4 or G5 running at 1.2 MHz or faster
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Windows XP or Vista• 2 GB MB memory (RAM) or more• 120 GB hard drive with at least 10 GB free space• CD-RW Drive/DVD-RW drive• Ethernet Card installed• 802.11b compatible Wireless Adapter. Required for notebooks. Optional for Desktops. (If possible choose a Wireless Adapter that is 802.11b compatible AND compatible with 802.11g networks and higher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macintosh OS X 10.5• 1GB memory (RAM) or more• 120 GB hard drive with at least 10 GB free space• CD-RW Drive/DVD-RW• Built-in Ethernet• AirPort Extreme Card (required for notebooks, optional for desktops)

Minimum Recommended Hardware Requirements

<u>Microsoft Windows</u>	<u>Apple Macintosh:</u>
Pentium D running at 900 MHZ or higher	G4 running at 600 MHz or higher
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Windows XP• 1 GB of memory (RAM)• 60 GB hard drive with at least 10GB free space• CD-ROM drive• Ethernet Card installed• 802.11b compatible Wireless Adapter (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mac OS X 10.4• 1 GB memory (RAM)• 60 GB hard drive with at least 10 GB free space• CD-ROM drive• Built-in Ethernet• AirPort Card (Optional)

Network and Internet Access:

All Cal Maritime Dorm rooms are equipped with Ethernet ports enabling students to access the Internet and the Cal Maritime Network. If students plan to use their computers in their dorm rooms, they must have a computer with an Ethernet card installed. Additionally, students must bring an Ethernet cable to connect their computers to the Ethernet ports in their room. The Ethernet cable should be a Category 5 (Cat5), 8 wire cable with RJ-45 plugs.

Currently we do not provide wireless access in Cal Maritime dorm rooms. However, on campus there are various wireless hotspots where students can connect with their own notebooks. Our existing wireless network is **802.11b** certified. Plans are in the works to upgrade to the faster **802.11g** standard.

On campus, students also can access the Cal Maritime network and Internet on computers located in the school computer labs, computers in the Center for Engagement, Teaching & Learning (CETL) as well as computers located in the Library. Upon arrival, students will be given specific instructions on how to connect to the Cal Maritime network.

Protecting your computer:

Here are few things you can do to protect your computer:

- Purchase a surge protector
- Verify that your computer is covered in a homeowner's insurance policy. Cal Maritime is not responsible for any loss or damage to your computer
- Make sure an up-to-date antivirus program is installed on your computer. Symantec Antivirus is provided without charge to all Cal Maritime students and faculty.
- Periodically backup important data to a CD or to your flash drive
- Enable Automatic Software Updating on your computer

Important Extra Items:

Here are a few additional items students find helpful to bring to campus:

- USB flash drive. Get as much Memory as you can afford. 8GB drives are now around \$20! If possible, purchase a flash drive with file encryption capability.
- Category 5 (Cat5), 8 wire Ethernet cable with RJ-45 plugs. 10 ft or longer
- Blank CD-RW CDs

If you have any further questions about computing at Cal Maritime, please do not hesitate to contact the IT Help Desk.

Email: helpdesk@csum.edu

Phone: 707.654.1048

On the Web: <http://www.csum.edu/IT/helpdesk.asp>