

K-STATE COMPUTER RECOMMENDATIONS



K-State encourages new students to bring a computer to college. Computers are used for coursework, research, and communicating with instructors. The university's high-speed data network allows access from residence-hall rooms, off-campus, the K-State Student Union, the library, university computing labs, and high-tech classrooms. Online resources include the library's catalog of materials and full-text databases.

See <http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/buying> for more details, FAQs and links.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT BUY ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE!

K-State's antivirus software is required for network access and is available for free via download or the CatPack

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUYING A NEW PC OR MAC*

Operating system	Windows Vista Business, Windows Vista Ultimate, or newer; or Mac OS X 10.5 or newer
Processor (CPU)	Dual-core processor or better
Monitor and video card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCD/LED 1024 x 768 resolution or higher, with 256 MB video RAM or more. • Dual- monitor capable video card.
Hard drive (HD)	160 gigabytes or larger
Memory (RAM)	2 gigabytes or more
Removable storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD recordable drive • USB flash drive (requires USB port) • External Hard drive which meets or exceeds your hard drive capacity (for backups)
Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: K-State antivirus software (available for free via download or the CatPack). • Recommended: Basic office suite (word processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation) such as Microsoft Office Suite or free tools like OpenOffice, StarOffice, and others.
Networking	<p>At least one of the following is required - check with where you will live to see what type of connection is available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethernet card: for on-campus, residence hall, and broadband access • Wireless card: 802.11a/g/n recommended for wireless access on campus • Modem: for off-campus dial-in
Audio	Sound card with speakers and/or headphones
Other recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USB ports and audio jacks on the front of a computer are highly preferred for easy access. • Use a backup program like Windows Backup or Mac OS Time Machine with an external hard drive to ensure file recovery in the event of a system malfunction. • Purchase a surge protector or uninterruptible power supply. • Add an extended warranty to cover the length of your academic use of the computer. Check with your homeowner's or renter's insurance to see if your computer is covered for damages or theft while used on campus, and get additional coverage if needed. • Consider purchasing a security cable for your laptop or desktop computer. • Bring copies of your operating system, office suite, and other software application installation media (including product keys) in case a reformat or reinstall becomes necessary.
Estimated price range	\$1000 - 1500

* **Before any purchase:** check your K-State college/department requirements for your field of study. Macs are recommended for Art, Education, and Journalism majors. For more information see: <http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/buying/collspecs.html>

← MORE →

Security

A vulnerable machine can be attacked and infected in a few seconds. **It is your responsibility to protect your computer and your data.** This helps protect the university's network and resources, and other K-Staters.

For security and support reasons, **Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000, and older, and Mac OS X 10.2 and older systems** are not allowed to connect to K-State's network.

K-State residence halls have special security requirements for connecting to the network. See <http://housing.k-state.edu/resnet>.

To safely connect to K-State's network:

1. Install the university's free antivirus software from <http://antivirus.k-state.edu>.
2. Set antivirus software to update DAILY.
3. Set Windows Update (or Mac Update) to install automatically.
4. Set a good log-in password for all accounts and especially the "administrator" account (Windows XP systems) or your Mac OS X account.

These precautions are needed because K-State actively scans its network to identify computers that are un-patched, vulnerable, or infected with a computer worm or virus.

If your computer is compromised, it will be blocked from accessing the network until it has been repaired and/or patched.

Once infected, often the only repair procedure available is to reformat the computer's hard drive and reinstall everything.

K-State's IT security web site:

<http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/security>

K-State's IT Security policy:

<http://www.k-state.edu/policies/ppm/3430.html>

K-State's web site:

<http://www.k-state.edu>

Information Technology web site:

<http://www.k-state.edu/infotech>

Buying tips

Review these tips before purchasing a computer.

- **Double check price quotes.** Sometimes the prices don't include a keyboard, mouse, monitor, or the recommended operating system.
- **Printers are usually sold separately.** Inkjet and laser printers provide high-quality printing. Before you buy, compare prices, features, and cartridge replacement costs.
- **Cables.** Ensure you have everything needed to connect and use your systems, including power cables, USB cables, and Ethernet cables.
- **Netbooks.** Laptops with screens smaller than 12 inches are not recommended for use as a student's one and only computer.

Minimum network requirements

Computers brought to K-State should meet, at the very least, Second Life's minimum system requirements:

<http://secondlife.com/support/sysreqs.php>

Environmental Considerations

For information about energy ratings and other environmental considerations see:

EPEAT: <http://www.epeat.net/>

Energy Star ratings: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.ShowProductGroup&pgw_code=CO

Computing labs at K-State

About 400 PCs for use by K-Staters are in the university computing labs and Hale Library's InfoCommons:

<http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/labs>.

Some departments have labs for students in their specific field of study. Residence-hall labs are for residents only.

Computing news

K-State's weekly IT newsletter has events, news, security tips, and more.

<http://itnews.itac.ksu.edu/>

Software

1. **Do NOT buy antivirus software.** K-State's free antivirus software **MUST** be installed on any computer connected to the campus network directly, via dial-in, or wireless. It is free to all K-Staters via download from <http://antivirus.k-state.edu> and the CatPack.
2. **The CatPack** is a collection of free and licensed software only for K-Staters. <http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/catpack>
3. **A basic office suite is recommended** (word processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation application) such as Microsoft Office Suite or free tools like OpenOffice, StarOffice, and others.
4. **Big software savings** are available at the K-State Student Union Computer Store, computerstore@k-state.edu, 785-532-7319, due to educational pricing (lower than retail) on software. <http://www.k-state.edu/computerstore>

Contact information

- **General questions about a computer you own**
IT Help Desk
785-532-7722
helpdesk@k-state.edu
<http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/helpdesk>
- **Access to special assistive technology**
Disability Support Services
785-532-6441
dss@k-state.edu
<http://www.k-state.edu/dss>
- **Residence-hall computing**
Residential Networking
785-532-2711
<http://housing.k-state.edu/resnet>
- **Computer repairs and service**
Technology Service Center
785-532-6314
techservices@k-state.edu
<http://www.k-state.edu/cts/tsc>
Provides computer service for a fee and is a repair center for Dell and Apple warranty support.



Notice of Nondiscrimination

Kansas State University is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other nonmerit reasons, in admissions, educational programs or activities and employment (including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era), as required by applicable laws and regulations. Responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, has been delegated to Clyde Howard, Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 214 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-0124, (Phone) 785-532-6220; (TTY) 785-532-4807. Revised December 1, 2003 12952-5/04-10M