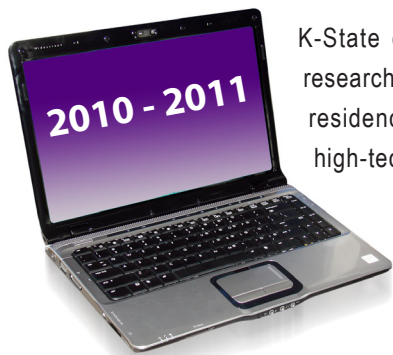


# K-STATE COMPUTER RECOMMENDATIONS



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\*

<b>Operating system</b>	Windows 7 Professional, Windows 7 Ultimate, or newer; or Mac OS X 10.6 or newer
<b>Processor (CPU)</b>	Dual-core processor or better
<b>Monitor and video card</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCD/LED 1024 x 768 resolution or higher, with 256 MB video RAM or more.</li> <li>• Dual- monitor capable video card.</li> </ul>
<b>Hard drive (HD)</b>	160 gigabytes or larger
<b>Memory (RAM)</b>	2 gigabytes or more. Consider a 64 bit operating system if 4 gigabytes or more.
<b>Removable storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVD recordable drive</li> <li>• USB flash drive (requires USB port)</li> <li>• External hard drive which meets or exceeds your hard drive capacity (for backups)</li> </ul>
<b>Software</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Required:</b> K-State antivirus software (available for free via download or the CatPack).</li> <li>• <b>Recommended:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic office suite (word processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation) such as Microsoft Office Suite or free tools like OpenOffice, StarOffice, and others.</li> <li>• Tools to read and create PDFs, such as CutePDF Writer, PDFCreator, or Adobe Acrobat Professional.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Networking</b>	At least one of the following is required - check with where you will live to see what type of connection is available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ethernet card:</b> for on-campus, residence hall, and broadband access</li> <li>• <b>Wireless card:</b> 802.11n recommended for wireless access on campus</li> </ul>
<b>Multimedia</b>	Media capable (sound, mic, webcam)
<b>Other recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netbooks and iPad like computing devices do not have the computing power of a normal laptop or desktop computer, for this reason they are not recommended for use as a primary computer at K-State.</li> <li>• USB ports and audio jacks that are easily accessible.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Purchase a surge protector or uninterruptible power supply.</li> <li>• 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, and get additional coverage if needed.</li> <li>• Consider adding security hardware, such as a security cable, or software, such as LoJack for laptops.</li> <li>• When purchasing a computer, make sure it includes copies of all media disks (operating system, drivers, and applications, including product keys) and bring copies of these disks with you to campus in case a reformat or reinstall becomes necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated price range</b>	\$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>

## 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/its/security>

**K-State's IT policies:**  
<http://www.k-state.edu/its/policies>

**K-State's web site:**  
<http://www.k-state.edu>

**Information Technology Services web site:**  
<http://www.k-state.edu/its>

## Buying tips

Review these tips before purchasing a computer.

- **Minimum system requirements**  
Computers brought to K-State should meet, at the very least, Second Life's minimum system requirements: <http://secondlife.com/support/sysreqs.php>
- **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.

## 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. **Tools to read & create PDFs are recommended** such as CutePDF Writer, PDFCreator, or Adobe Acrobat Professional.
5. **Big software savings** are available at the K-State Student Union Computer Store, [computerstore@k-state.edu](mailto:computerstore@k-state.edu), 785-532-7319, due to educational pricing (lower than retail) on software. <http://www.k-state.edu/computerstore>

## 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](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://www.k-state.edu/infotech/itnews>

## Contact information

- **General questions about a computer you own**  
IT Help Desk  
785-532-7722  
[helpdesk@k-state.edu](mailto:helpdesk@k-state.edu)  
<http://www.k-state.edu/its/helpdesk>
- **Access to special assistive technology**  
Disability Support Services  
785-532-6441  
[dss@k-state.edu](mailto: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**  
214 Hale - at the IT Help Desk  
785-532-7722  
<http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/tsc>  
Provides computer and peripheral repair service for a fee, including Dell and Apple warranty support.