

Computer Information for Incoming Freshmen

The following information is a guide for not only SI participants, but all incoming freshmen planning to live on campus. On-campus internet service is managed through ResNet at Cal Poly and the Bookstore provides information about what computer to buy. Additionally, Cal Poly provides many resources for students about computers on-campus and the following is just a recap of many of those sources. Remember there will be a computing seminar during SI to further introduce you to the Cal Poly network. Please follow the links on this page for more information or contact Summer Institute if you have questions.

What is ResNet?

ResNet is the Residential Network support service department on-campus. They control the internet and network for all of Cal Poly. ResNet is a great resource for those who have questions about internet access on campus, hardware, software, user responsibility, and technical support. Please contact ResNet at 805-756-5600 or visit their website at <http://resnet.calpoly.edu/>.

Is it better to have a MAC or PC at Cal Poly?

Many incoming students ask this question. There are some recommendations. Choose the one you are more comfortable with. It is suggested to contact your department for their recommendation. Sometimes your major may require certain software that is only compatible with either a MAC or a PC. Cal Poly supports both systems.

Is it better to have a Laptop or Desktop?

Most students recommend a having laptop because it is portable and can be taken to study groups, the library, class, and around your living space. However, desktops are less expensive and the possibility of theft is greater for laptops.

Are there computer labs on campus if I choose not to bring a computer?

Yes, there are two main computer labs students can use throughout the year. The learning commons is located in the library and provides hundreds of computers, both MAC and PC for students to use. Please follow this link to check out the labs in the library <http://lib.calpoly.edu/learningcommons/labs/>. Remember the library will have limited hours during the summer. Another computer lab is in the business building (bldg. 3) on the third floor. The hours during summer are from 8 am-5 pm Monday through Friday. Times are subject to change so please visit the following link for more information <http://www.cob.calpoly.edu/resources/computerlab.html>.

Can I print anywhere on campus?

In every computer lab there are printers for student use. The cost to print is \$0.10 a page for black and white.

What other materials do I need to bring if I choose to bring a computer to Cal Poly?

To access the internet in your room on campus you need to purchase an Ethernet cable. There are many sizes but a 20 ft. cable is the longest you will need. Remember there is no wireless internet in the rooms, only in the common areas. So an Ethernet cable is a necessity to ensure students have the fastest running internet possible in their rooms. Additionally, some students recommend a docking station for laptops.

What software should I buy for my computer?

If you are living on campus there is no need to buy antivirus software because Cal Poly provides one for all students. All Cal Poly computers and staff have Microsoft Office so it is important to have at least MS Word on your computer. El Corral bookstore sells software so please refer to them for prices (link below). On your Cal Poly portal under the technology tab, there are links to MAC and Dell which offers student discounts on software.

Are there any discounts I can receive on computers because I attend Cal Poly?

Yes! There are two places to look to receive discounts. First, El Corral bookstore offers discounted prices on computers, software, and computer accessories. Please visit their website at <http://www.elcorralbookstore.com/computers/index.aspx?catID=13> for more information. Second, on your Cal Poly portal there is a technology tab. Under this tab there are links to discounts on MAC and Dell computers.

What are the rules and regulations for using computers on campus?

Many people who rely on the Cal Poly network. Therefore, it is important that everyone follows the policies ResNet has for computer use on campus. For example, did you know on-campus computer use is only for academic use, even if you own the computer? For clarification on this policy and any questions you may have please visit <http://resnet.calpoly.edu/policieshome.html>.