

Student Computer Information

In 2003, the Mount started a Dell Laptop Purchase Program. The goal was to make sure all students had access on campus and to keep the technology "secure."

This program was a success for those years but in light of the economic times and students varying needs when it comes to technology, the Mount has decided to discontinue the program and move to an **Open Access** campus.

What has changed?

- **We have resolved the security concerns.** When students bring their home computer/laptop, and it is plugged into the network, it will be scanned for the latest patches and virus software. Once it passes, a student will have full access to our Internet network.
- **Students needs are different.** Some may want more memory or graphics cards for video, music or gaming. Business majors might want a traditional PC with the Office suite while a fine arts major might want something very different. Now students can have the computer they need and have open access to the Mount's Internet system.
- **The economy.** In the past we have required incoming students to purchase the required laptop, an approximate cost of \$1,300, even if they had a computer at home. At a time when every dollar counts, and most incoming freshman have a great computer system/laptop at home that can be brought with them, saving the additional cost of purchasing a "required" laptop means a lot to families.

We want families to know the Mount is dedicated to creating and supporting a technologically advanced environment to give our students every educational advantage possible. Thanks for choosing the Mount for the education of a lifetime.

What kind of computer will I need? In general, we recommend a Windows-based laptop with Microsoft Office (or compatible) software and current antivirus software. Laptops are sometimes requested in class for activities, as well as offering flexibility in studying. Since your teachers will be using the latest version of Microsoft Office, you can avoid conflicts by using the same (students receive a substantial educational discount for Microsoft Office.) Depending on capabilities, some alternative software may be acceptable (Open Office, for example.)

What happens if my computer breaks? You may want to consider an extended warranty for hardware repair, usually available at the time of purchase. You can always take advantage of repair services such as those available at Best Buy. We are making arrangements with a local company to provide pickup/delivery and repair service as well (repair fees not covered by warranty are the responsibility of the student.) The HelpDesk will not provide hardware or software services except for those laptops previously purchased under the Mount's Student Laptop program.

Please note that our system monitors computers constantly and will quarantine any computer that develops a virus or does not keep its software up to date. It is the students responsibility to update their computer.

Is any special software required? The recommendations above are general. Certain majors or schools may require specific software. You should check with them.

*** Note: Go to www.msmary.edu/laptop periodically to check for any updates on computer recommendations.**