Welcome Wildcats!

We’re pleased you have selected Northwestern University (NU). A substantial part of your academic life will involve using computers to explore resources on Northwestern’s network and the Internet. Our organization, Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT), is here to provide guidance as you navigate the many uses of technology.

Our goal is to connect all students to our network before the first week of school. The purpose of this newsletter is to:

- **Introduce** you to Northwestern’s digital community, computing standards, online tools, and resources.
- **Prepare** you for connecting to the NU Network, managing your digital identity, securing your computer against network threats, such as viruses and spyware, and buying the right computer for school.
- **Showcase** the wide range of technology at Northwestern. For example, you will find information about campus wireless Internet access and about NUTV, Northwestern’s innovative system that delivers expanded television programming across the network to individual residence hall rooms.

We encourage you to visit Northwestern’s New Student Week Web site, [www.northwestern.edu/newstudentweek/](http://www.northwestern.edu/newstudentweek/), which has a wealth of information for incoming students and their families.

Other Web resources for students include Northwestern’s student portal, HereAndNow [hereandnow.northwestern.edu](http://hereandnow.northwestern.edu), and the University’s Official Information for Students Web page [www.northwestern.edu/student/](http://www.northwestern.edu/student/).

Northwestern is committed to supporting your utilization of digital resources within our electronic community. We encourage you to send suggestions and comments to gettingconnected@northwestern.edu.
requirements

NUIT’s base recommendations for computer purchases can be found on page 11. Following is a list of schools that may have additional computer requirements. These tend to meet or exceed NUIT’s expectations for new computer purchases.

McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science
The McCormick School requires computer use by all students. McCormick students are responsible for their own computing needs. For more information, see <www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/>.

Medill School of Journalism
Windows and Macintosh computers are used in various journalism classes at Medill. Specialized software for class-specific projects is available for student use in Medill’s computer labs. For more information, see <www.medill.northwestern.edu>.

School of Communication
The School of Communication encourages entering students to use computers. Most students in the School of Communication find it convenient to have their own computer. For more information, including suggested computer configurations, see <www.communication.northwestern.edu/comp2005.htm>.

School of Education and Social Policy
The School of Education has no specific guidelines other than what NUIT recommends. Please use page 11 for your reference.

School of Music
The School of Music maintains Windows and Macintosh computers in its labs with a rich array of music software. It is strongly recommended that all entering students have a computer. The core curriculum in music theory and history makes extensive use of the Internet and streamed audio files. A personal computer equipped to play back streamed media with software such as QuickTime and RealAudio is encouraged, and a good pair of headphones or a small sound system is recommended. For keyboard skills work and for many other courses, a small MIDI keyboard would be a plus. Music printing software to augment the usual word processing titles would be helpful in preparing papers. For more information, see <music.northwestern.edu>.

Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences
The Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences encourages all students to use computers; computer ownership is strongly recommended. Computer connectivity is vital for communicating with faculty and advisers, for obtaining information on academic programs and courses, for course registration and review of academic records, for completing course work, and for receiving important announcements from the Dean’s Office and academic departments. For more information, see <www.wcas.northwestern.edu>.

new student checklist (Information about these items can be found in this newsletter.)

Before arriving on campus…
- Activate your NetID. (page 3)
- Access your Northwestern e-mail account. (page 3)
- Install NU’s Symantec AntiVirus software and set it to run daily updates. (page 6-7)
- Ensure that your computer will be compatible with University resources. (page 11)
- Visit Northwestern’s Virtual Store to find available hardware and software discounts. (page 10)
- Recognize tips for avoiding “phishing” scams. (page 8)
- Review Northwestern’s purchasing guidelines. (page 11)
- Check your school’s computing requirements. (page 2)

Once on campus…
- Meet your ResCon. (page 4)
- Access the wireless network, if you have a wireless laptop. (page 4)
- Register for your classes using CAESAR. (page 9)
NetID: Your Electronic Identity
Your NetID is your electronic identity at Northwestern and is automatically assigned to you, along with a password, when you enter the University. A range of services is associated with NetIDs, including e-mail, the University’s online directory, and access to academic and personal information, including grades. Guard your NetID password carefully and do not share it with anyone under any circumstances. To activate your NetID, visit <www.northwestern.edu/login/>.

Address Changes
Before August 1, 2005, incoming students should send permanent mailing address changes to ug-admission@northwestern.edu. After August 1, you can view and modify your mailing addresses using CAESAR, Northwestern’s student gateway <www.northwestern.edu/caesar/>.

Questions? Call the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357).

E-mail at Northwestern
Your northwestern.edu e-mail account is an official communication channel for the University. Please activate your account over the summer and check your e-mail for important news from Northwestern. You can access your e-mail via WebMail at <www.northwestern.edu/webmail/>.

NUIT’s E-mail Services Web site <www.it.northwestern.edu/accounts/email/> has detailed information about setting up e-mail accounts, software, and specialized services. NUIT does not recommend a single specific e-mail solution—though many individuals use Outlook/Outlook Express, Entourage, or Apple Mail. All of these applications work well within the Northwestern infrastructure and have easy-to-use interfaces, useful word processing features, and powerful junk e-mail filtering.

In early fall 2005, NUIT will launch the E-mail Defense System (EDS), which will filter junk e-mail and viruses before they reach your Inbox. More information about EDS is available at <www.it.northwestern.edu/accounts/email/junk/>.

If you have questions about your Northwestern e-mail account over the summer, call the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) or e-mail consultant@northwestern.edu.

Northwestern Online Directory
Use the online directory <directory.northwestern.edu> to look up phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other information for University faculty, staff, and students. From this site, you can log in with your NetID and password to edit your directory information, change your password, and modify your privacy settings.

Do IT Yourself! (Self-Service)
Although the NUIT Support Center is available to you, we encourage you to take advantage of self-service tools whenever possible. Check out the variety of useful options at the NetID Services Web site, <https://snap.it.northwestern.edu>, to help you reset, check, or change your NetID password, check the status of your NetID, forward your e-mail, and more.

Student Job Opportunities
Working for NUIT is challenging and fun, and helps build a great resume! Rewarding job opportunities are available in the Support Center, computer labs, residence halls, and more. Learn about computers, networks, and the Internet while developing technical and interpersonal skills. For information, visit <www.it.northwestern.edu/about/studjob/>.

Northwestern’s central e-mail servers—Casbah, Heeky, Lulu, and Merle—are named after local restaurants.
**Residence Hall Access**

Every student who lives in a residence hall has a high-speed Internet connection. This allows you to work online at a fast pace and to view advanced digital media with ease. You will need a 10BaseT Ethernet cable to connect your computer to the network jack in your room. Ethernet cables are available at all computer stores and many office supply stores. A 25-foot cable is recommended – longer cables may cause connection problems.

**Residential Networking Assistance (ResNet)**

Our residential networking (ResNet) program’s goal is to help you take advantage of Northwestern’s digital resources. If you are having problems getting connected, you can contact a Residential Networking Consultant (ResCon) for free technical support.

ResCons are dedicated to getting you connected quickly. They can help resolve most network-related problems and answer questions about setting up NUIT-supported software. To get support, submit an online ticket at <www.resnet.northwestern.edu/help/> or call the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357).

**Student Telephone Service**

NUIT provides telephone service to residence halls and some Greek houses. Service is available as soon as you check in, and there are no installation fees or deposits. Features include free, unlimited calling to other NUIT campus phones, call waiting, discounted long distance service, and the ability to use calling cards. Charges are billed to individuals via a PIN system, so you won’t have to divide charges with your roommates.

If you want to take advantage of telephone service provided by NUIT, you (or a roommate) must provide a touch-tone telephone, and, if desired, an answering machine. Information about NUIT telephone service will be mailed to you later this summer.

**Wireless Access**

Wireless access allows you to use the NU Network without being tied to your desk. You can use wireless networking in numerous locations on and off campus. These locations were chosen to assist in student collaboration, and include Norris University Center, parts of University Library, and many other campus buildings, including some residence hall dining areas.

Both a WiFi (802.11b/g) card and authentication via VPN (Virtual Private Networking) are required to connect to Northwestern’s wireless network. If you need help setting up your wireless connection or for a complete list of wireless locations, visit “Making A Wireless Connection” at <www.it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/> or call 847-491-HELP (4357).

Please note: University policy prohibits individuals from installing their own wireless or wired network access points or other network extensions in residential halls. These devices could compromise the security of Northwestern’s network. For detailed information, see <www.it.northwestern.edu/policies/extensions.html>.
Virtual Private Network (VPN)
To maximize security, Northwestern requires users to authenticate using VPN while accessing the campus wireless network. Using your NetID and password, VPN “tunnels” into the NU Network, verifying your identity and securing your data. VPN is also recommended for students connecting to the NU Network from off campus, and is required for some resources.

VPN clients are available for all NUIT-supported operating systems, including handheld devices (PDAs). The latest versions of Windows and Mac OS X include built-in VPN software that can connect to the NU Network. For more detailed information about VPN at Northwestern, including instructions for setting up VPN on your computer, visit <www.it.northwestern.edu/vpn/>.

Connecting from Off Campus: DSL and Cable Internet
If you live off campus, there are numerous ways to get connected to the Internet and the NU Network. The preferred method is via a residential broadband service such as DSL (digital subscriber line) or cable modem service. High-speed connections make sense for the Northwestern community.

For detailed information about high-speed Internet access from off campus, including help in choosing the right service for your needs, visit NUIT’s Off Campus Connections Web pages <www.it.northwestern.edu/offcampus/>.

Computer Labs
There are several labs at Northwestern with both Windows and Macintosh computers available. Many students find labs useful for checking e-mail between classes. When not in use by a class, labs are open to all members of the Northwestern community for walk-in access. NUIT does not recommend relying on labs as your primary computing resource—hours of operation and facilities are limited.

NUIT also maintains labs that cater to specific technology needs. MediaWorks, located on the lower level of University Library, is available exclusively to Northwestern students for video, audio, and graphic production. MediaWorks features top-of-the-line Mac and PC systems with dual displays, video decks, digitizers, cameras for student use, and other tools for professional quality multimedia production. More information is available at <mediaworks.it.northwestern.edu>.

For more information about NUIT labs, including real-time availability, visit <www.at.northwestern.edu/ctg/labs/>.

*No cable, no jack, no kidding*
Northwestern's wireless network service provides laptop (and other mobile device) users with fast and convenient access to e-mail and Web-based services.

With more than 300 wireless access points, your ability to connect just got a whole lot easier.
**Get Control** is NUIT’s online computer and network security resource for the University community. Install what you need and walk through these five simple steps to Get Control, before your computer gets control of you!

1. **STEP 1**
   Antivirus Software is your frontline defense against viruses!
   **Why should I care?**
   Just connecting to the Internet makes your computer vulnerable to virus attacks. Using Symantec AntiVirus (FREE for Northwestern students) and configuring it to update virus definitions automatically will help keep your computer protected.

2. **STEP 2**
   Security Updates and Patches offer protection against known problems.
   **Why should I care?**
   Relying on the fact that many computer users fail to install software patches on their machines, hackers create worms to take advantage of these vulnerabilities. Microsoft and Apple offer updates to correct security gaps that worms and other malicious programs can use to attack your computer. Running Symantec AntiVirus is not enough. You can configure your computer to automatically seek out updates for hassle-free security.

3. **STEP 3**
   A Secure Passphrase... Treat it as you would your toothbrush-- don't share it, and change it often!
   **Why should I care?**
   A strong NetID passphrase is important for logging onto the Northwestern network and accessing your account. It’s just as important to set a strong passphrase for your personal computer. Malicious individuals who break into computer systems often enter by “cracking” a passphrase, logging in, and exploiting your information and computer access. Your computer passphrase should be similar to your NetID passphrase, the longer, the better. Frequent passphrase changes are also an important way to avoid having your computer compromised. Northwestern uses a “passphrase aging” system which requires you to change your NetID passphrase at least every 120 days. You should follow this rule with your computer passphrase as well.

**Think it can’t happen?**
Your computer will be compromised if it’s not secure. Every computer is vulnerable to attacks, whether it’s inherited from Mom or Dad or pulled fresh out of the box. If your computer is found to be infected you can lose your data, your privacy and your network connection... that means no surfing the net, no IM chat, and no access. Period.

### Important...
New computers often come with trial versions of antivirus software. Having two different antivirus programs installed on one computer can cause conflicts. Always uninstall the antivirus software that came on your computer before installing the Symantec software provided by Northwestern.

### Security Updates and Patches
Offer protection against known problems.

### A Secure Passphrase
Treat it as you would your toothbrush-- don’t share it, and change it often!

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Your computer will be compromised if it’s not secure. Every computer is vulnerable to attacks, whether it’s inherited from Mom or Dad or pulled fresh out of the box. If your computer is found to be infected you can lose your data, your privacy and your network connection... that means no surfing the net, no IM chat, and no access. Period.

### Your five steps
1. **Antivirus Software**
2. **Software Updates**
3. **Password Security**
4. **Your five steps**
5. **Your five steps**

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Your five steps to get control

Install what you need and walk through these five simple steps to Get Control, before your computer gets control of you!

Get Control is NUIT’s online computer and network security resource for the University community. Install what you need and walk through these five simple steps at NUIT’s Get Control Web site.

<www.it.northwestern.edu/getcontrol/>

Spyware sneaks into your system and invades your privacy.

Why should I care?
Think of it as someone looking over your shoulder and writing down everything you see and do. Spyware covertly accesses your computer, secretly transmitting information about your online activity or data stored on your computer. Spyware is commonly installed as a component of freeware programs such as Kazaa Media Desktop. Remember to take caution in downloading freeware or accepting free downloads. NUIT recommends Spybot Search & Destroy, a free anti-spyware application that detects spyware on your machine.

A Firewall alerts you to possible intruders!

Why should I care?
Connecting to the Internet without a firewall is like putting a sign outside your unlocked room that reads “Free Stuff Here.” A firewall can help protect your computer against hackers and other security attacks. Severe attacks may delete important data, crash your system, or even steal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

Important...
Windows XP and Mac OS X have built-in firewalls. It is important to ensure your firewall is enabled for complete protection.

For individual problems, NUIT provides a help desk for the entire Northwestern community. You may call the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) or e-mail your question to consultant@northwestern.edu. Additional support contacts are available on the NUIT Help Web site.

<www.it.northwestern.edu/help/contact/>

In addition, specific schools at the University also provide technology support for their members.

<www.it.northwestern.edu/help/contact/help-ci-desks/>

For students living in University Housing, NUIT’s ResNet service provides live technical support by student consultants.

<www.it.northwestern.edu/student-support/resnet/>
**File Sharing and Copyright Infringement**

Recently, numerous articles in newspapers, professional publications, and other media have discussed the sharing of copyrighted music, movies, games, and software over the Internet. The common method for sharing these kinds of files is through “peer to peer” (p2p) software.

Peer-to-peer file sharing of copyrighted works without the permission of the copyright holder is against the law and prohibited by University policy. Thousands of people across the nation who have allegedly shared copyrighted material without the permission of the copyright holder have been sued personally by the music, motion picture, and software industries for violating the U.S. copyright law.

NUIT encourages students to experience educational multimedia content available on the Internet, as long as this is done legally. Violations of U.S. copyright law can result in severe personal liabilities, including civil and criminal penalties. Violators’ network privileges may be revoked, with possible additional penalties by the University. Additionally, criminal convictions can adversely affect and limit one’s career opportunities and choices. We know that you have worked hard to get into Northwestern; is downloading copyrighted material worth the potential risk to your future?!

**NetPass for Residential Hall Students**

The first time you sign on to the NU Network from your residence hall, NUIT’s NetPass service makes sure you’re ready to fly. NetPass checks your computer for vulnerabilities, such as out-of-date virus definitions. If your security protection isn’t up to NUIT standards, your computer is quarantined until you make the necessary changes. Self-service instructions for correcting specific problems are available through limited Internet access. Following NUIT’s “Five Simple Steps” for computer security before you get to campus will ensure that you’re ready to get connected right away.

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**“Phishing” Scams and Identity Theft**

“Phishing” e-mail scams and identity theft are a growing problem on the Internet. Scammers use illegitimate e-mails and Web sites to trick unsuspecting people into sharing their financial data and other sensitive information. Eventually this information may be used for identity theft or simply to withdraw money from your account.

“Phishing” scammers use familiar company names, logos, and graphics to mimic the look of trusted e-mail messages and Web sites. Also, these messages often try to create a sense of urgency – “log in now or your account will be suspended.” You should delete these illegitimate messages.

Some tips for recognizing and avoiding “phishing” scams:

- Be suspicious of e-mails with urgent requests for personal or financial information.
- Do not reply, click, or enter information if you receive a suspicious e-mail.
- Don’t click unfamiliar links or fill out forms within e-mail messages.
- If you get a copy of any one message, and you are not sure it’s legitimate, check it out by using an out-of-band communication to ascertain its authenticity. (For example, call your bank and ask them if there’s a problem with your account, instead of providing the information in response to an e-mail message.)

Additional information on Privacy and Identity Theft may be found at NUIT’s Web site <www.it.northwestern.edu/security/privacy/>.

If you think you have fallen victim to “phishing” scams or identity theft:

- File a report with Northwestern University Police by calling (847) 491-3254.
- View the Federal Trade Commission’s Identity Theft Web site <www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>, where you will find information about contacting credit bureaus, closing accounts, filing complaints with the FTC, and more.
CAESAR (Online registration)
CAESAR (Computer Assisted Electronic Student Access Route) allows you to register for classes, search course schedules, view enrollment appointments, obtain unofficial transcripts, view grades, change your official address, and more. You can check your degree status, financial aid eligibility and awards, and view and pay bills online using CAESAR. You can also access the Course and Teacher Evaluation Council (CTEC) site and view other students’ reviews of courses and professors before you register. For more information, visit <www.northwestern.edu/caesar/>.

NUTV
NUTV is NUIT’s innovative system of delivering expanded television programming to undergraduate residence halls via the NU Network. NUIT implemented NUTV in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs in response to student requests for television programming in individual rooms. NUTV delivers high quality video to your computer using a Web browser. A real-time channel guide lists available channels and what’s on at any time. More information about NUTV is available at <www.northwestern.edu/nutv/>.

NUCH1
NUCH1 (NU Channel 1) is dedicated to broadcasting University-related and sponsored activities including cultural, recreational and educational events. Accessible via NUTV, this co-curricular channel broadcasts the online Plan-It Purple calendar with information about events of interest to students.

Plan-It Purple (Online calendar)
Plan-It Purple <planitpurple.northwestern.edu> is a central online calendar where you can find schedules and information for activities at Northwestern. View events by location, date, groups, or event type (including arts and entertainment, athletics, and lectures). Access an event’s time, location, cost, and description, including links to related Web pages such as campus maps. You can customize Plan-It Purple to create your own custom “My Plan-It” page tailored to display specific events and groups. For more information, see <myplanit.northwestern.edu>.

Course Management System (Blackboard)
Northwestern’s Course Management System (CMS), powered by Blackboard, provides an efficient way for instructors to communicate with you. Many professors use CMS to distribute course handouts, lecture notes, syllabi, assignments, and readings. Some CMS sites include streaming media, discussion boards, and additional interactive features to enhance coursework and collaboration. You can share documents online, reducing the clutter and inefficiency of e-mail attachments. Many instructors use the secure, private CMS environment to post grades for individual assignments. For details, see <course-management.northwestern.edu>.

HereAndNow Online
HereAndNow <hereandnow.northwestern.edu> is Northwestern’s unofficial, student-run Web portal. Its main function is to provide links to Web sites and University services relevant to undergraduates: the University Registrar, CAESAR, WebMail, CMS, campus events, shuttle schedules, and campus maps. Other features include real-time local weather and breaking campus news. HereAndNow also features community links, including a restaurant guide and links to campus news services, and student group Web sites. You can search the online directory, take part in book exchanges, find information about apartment sublets, and post classified ads for other students.

The University also maintains a comprehensive list of campus links on the official Northwestern student Web page <www.northwestern.edu/student/>.
Bringing Your Own Computer
If you plan on bringing an older computer to school, please review the guidelines on page 11. Outdated computers are slower and less powerful than newer models. This may frustrate you or affect your ability to do school work. Computers that operate below the minimum supported configurations may work, but we will not be able to fully support them. If your computer does not meet our minimum specifications, we recommend upgrading it or purchasing a new computer.

Shipping a Computer to Campus
We strongly recommend that you bring your computer to campus with you. If this is not possible, and if you will be living in a residence hall, you may ship your computer to campus. Choose a shipping company that provides tracking information, proof of delivery, and insurance. Request an arrival date of Thursday, September 8, 2005. It is very important that your package(s) arrive as close to that date as possible. Items arriving before September 8 will be returned. Ship the computer to yourself at your campus address:

Student's Name
Residence Hall Name
Street Address, Room Number
Evanston, IL 60201

Large and late-arriving packages will be stored in a package room. When you arrive, stop by the location that serves as your residence hall's mailroom with a photo ID to claim your package. Specific pick-up hours and locations will be noted around mailroom locations. Direct any questions to res-life@northwestern.edu or 847-491-3541. Please note that Northwestern University provides the package center service as a courtesy only. Use this service at your own risk.

The Virtual Store
Although Northwestern has no campus computer store, you can find information and possible sources for hardware and software purchased on the Virtual Store Web site <www.virtualstore.northwestern.edu>. If you buy a computer through the Virtual Store's listed vendors, you can take advantage of special student discounts. Northwestern does not endorse any particular vendor.

Windows or Macintosh?
NUIT supports both Windows and Macintosh operating systems. The choice between them is a matter of personal preference. Check individual school requirements (page 2) to see if your program recommends particular hardware and software, and visit our software Web site (see below) for discounted software.

Software for Students
NUIT provides selected software titles available to students at significant academic discounts through its online e-Academy software store. Among the titles available are Microsoft Office, Windows XP Pro, and the latest versions of Maple and Mathematica. For more information about products or ordering details, visit <https://elms.e-academy.com/northwestern/>. Please send your questions regarding Northwestern University software policies to questions@software.northwestern.edu.

NUIT also offers a variety of free software to students, including Symantec AntiVirus. For information about free software, visit <www.it.northwestern.edu/software/students/>.

## Recommended PC Configurations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Desktop</th>
<th>Laptop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computer Processors and Speed</strong></td>
<td>3.0 GHz or faster Pentium 4 or equivalent processor</td>
<td>2.4 GHz or faster Pentium 4, 1.6 GHz Pentium M, or equivalent processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>At least 1 GB RAM</td>
<td>At least 512 MB RAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard disk</td>
<td>At least 60 GB hard disk</td>
<td>At least 30 GB hard disk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD/DVD</td>
<td>CD-RW or combo drive</td>
<td>CD-RW or combo drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Microsoft Windows XP Professional Service Pack 2</td>
<td>Microsoft Windows XP Professional Service Pack 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethernet Cards</td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Cards¹²³</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>802.11b/g wireless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Cards</td>
<td>32 MB Video Card (e.g., NVIDIA, ATI)</td>
<td>32 MB Video Card (e.g., NVIDIA, ATI)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Recommended Macintosh Configurations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Desktop</th>
<th>Laptop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computer Processors and Speed</strong></td>
<td>iMac G5 1.8 GHz, eMac G4 1.25 GHz, or faster processor</td>
<td>iBook G4 1.33 GHz, or PowerBook G4 1.5 GHz or faster processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>At least 1 GB</td>
<td>At least 512 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard disk</td>
<td>At least 40 GB</td>
<td>At least 40 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD/DVD</td>
<td>CD-RW or combo drive</td>
<td>Combo Drive or Super Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther) or higher</td>
<td>Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther) or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethernet Cards</td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Cards¹²³</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Airport card or any 802.11b/g compatible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Cards</td>
<td>32 MB Video Card (e.g., NVIDIA, ATI)</td>
<td>32 MB Video Card (e.g., NVIDIA, ATI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** These are the minimum recommended requirements. Purchasing guidelines are updated periodically by NUIT. For the latest recommendations, please visit [www.it.northwestern.edu/hardware/](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/hardware/).

1. The wireless Local Area Network (LAN) is available in some areas of the campus. For more information, see [www.it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/wireless/](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/wireless/).
2. A wireless card is not a substitute for a standard Ethernet card.
3. 802.11b/g is the standard for this environment. Future releases of the 802.11 standard are not currently supported by NUIT.