

What you need to know about Information Technology at College of the Atlantic

Computer Recommendations and Requirements

College of the Atlantic does not have a required computer purchase, however if you can afford to purchase a personal computer, we strongly recommend that you do so. COA has a public computer lab, but access to these computers varies. A personal computer helps students with communication, assignment access, research and efficiency. About 98% of last year's incoming students had their own computer and all but two were laptops. Both Macs and PCs are supported at COA and the Mac/PC split is about even. Students who wish to pursue in depth studies in data or computer science will need a laptop to be successful.

If you plan to bring a computer to COA, we highly suggest that it meet the following requirements:

Windows-based PCs:

- Windows 10 with latest patches
- Antivirus/anti spyware
- At least 8GB of RAM/16GB recommended (16 GB minimum for data/computer science)

Apple computers:

- Mac OS X El Capitan with latest patches
- Antivirus/antispyware
- At least 8GB of RAM/16GB recommended (16 GB minimum for data/computer science)

If you plan to bring a computer to COA, the following items are also recommended:

- Extended warranty service (3 or 4 years)
- Buy only *Energy Star* computers and accessories

**You do not need to purchase Microsoft Office as COA provides all enrolled students with a Microsoft Office 365 account to support their success at the college.*

General Policy

Wireless and wired connections are available throughout the campus. Network privileges are granted through a process of registering with the Campus Management system. Each student is allowed to register 2 devices. In order to maintain network privileges users must:

- Install, keep installed and keep updated antivirus
- Keep computers up to date with patches provided by the manufacturer of the Operating System

Acceptable Use Policy

The complete College of the Atlantic IT Acceptable Use Policy is located on the Computer Services page <http://www.coa.edu/computer-usage-policy.htm>. Utilizing college-owned computers and networks constitutes acceptance and understanding of the COA's IT Acceptable Use Policy.