

Emerson College

Essentials for Student Computing

- Your computer should meet Emerson's **recommended computer configurations**. These are outlined on the IT Help Desk website Computer Purchasing page: <http://www.emerson.edu/helpdesk/purchasing/Personal-Use.cfm>
- If you are considering purchasing new computer hardware or software, be sure to check out the **education discounts** that are available to the Emerson community here: <http://www.emerson.edu/helpdesk/purchasing/Vendors.cfm> *Harvard University Technology Services offers the lowest prices for Apple Computer products!*
- It's very important to read and understand Emerson's **Electronic Information Policy** so that you use the College's network in a legal and ethical manner. You can read it at: <http://www.emerson.edu/helpdesk/policy>
- **Update your operating system!** An updated operating system free of viruses and spyware is required to access the Emerson network. Plus, you want a computer that is virus-free and safe to use, don't you? For information about computer maintenance and security, see: <http://www.emerson.edu/helpdesk/services/maintenance>
- **Antivirus software** is required to access the Emerson network. Fortunately, Emerson offers Symantec's Norton AntiVirus for free! Visit <http://rx.emerson.edu> when you arrive at Emerson to download the antivirus client. *Please note that you must be on-campus to download the software!*
- If you will be living in an Emerson residence hall, you will need a **Cat-5 ethernet cable** (25 foot maximum) to connect your computer to your room's ethernet jack. You can buy one at the Emerson College Bookstore or any electronics store.
- Make sure you have the **license key** for your copy of your computer's operating system. If you didn't buy it, the IT Help Desk can't fix it! Operating system keys come with new computers and are usually somewhere on the computer's case. You should also bring all of your software installation CDs and their related licenses in case you ever need to reinstall something.
- A **touch-tone telephone** is helpful to have in a residence hall room, as it allows you to be contacted by on-campus telephones. Cordless phones are *not* recommended for residence hall use, however, as they often interfere with the wireless network.
- If you'd like to use Emerson's **wireless** network, please make sure that your wireless card meets the specifications listed at <http://www.emerson.edu/wireless>
- The use of **routers and wireless devices** (such as the Airport Express) is *strictly prohibited on campus*.
- You will receive an **ECnet username and password** in the mail in late August, and also when you receive your Emerson ID card at Orientation. You'll use this username and password to access your ECmail, register for classes, use the computer labs, and check your grades.

If you have any technology-related questions, please call the IT Help Desk at 617.824.8080.