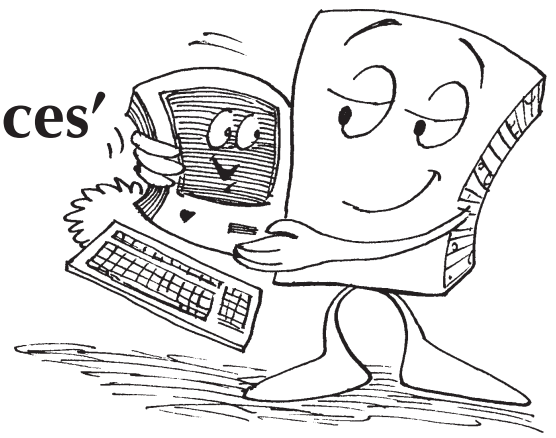


Computing & Information Services' Frequently Asked Questions For First-Year Students and Their Parents



Q: Do I need to buy a computer when I come to Harvey Mudd College?

A: Computing and Information Services maintains four computer labs for use by students. In the Parsons Building we have a Windows lab, a Mac OS lab and a third lab with a mix of Windows and Mac OS computers. Each lab has a laser printer and the third lab also has two color scanners. We also have another Windows lab in the Linde Activities Center near the dorms. The labs are open 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. In addition to the labs maintained by CIS, there are several other labs on campus maintained by the various academic departments. So buying a computer is not an absolute necessity. The vast majority of students prefer the convenience of having their own computer, however, especially towards the end of the semester when the labs are the most busy.

Q: Do I need to buy a printer?

A: CIS also maintains several publicly accessible printers which students can use. The printers are located in the computer labs in the Parsons Building and in the Linde Activities Center. Currently CIS does not charge for printing. There are no publicly accessible printers in the dorms, although the Linde Activities Center is quite close. So if walking to the labs to pick up printouts would be a problem, then you should consider buying your own printer.

Q: Is there a computer store at the Claremont Colleges?

A: Huntley Bookstore on the Claremont Colleges campus has a computer sales department. They offer special academic pricing for students of the Claremont Colleges and also have a service center for computer repairs. You can contact them by phone at (909) 621-8999 or visit their Web site at <http://www.huntley.claremont.edu/>. There are also several computer superstores in the area.

Q: What kind of computer should I buy for my dorm room?

A: Many students and parents ask us if they should buy a Macintosh or a Windows machine. Students and faculty at HMC use both and both are available in our labs. Linux is also common on dorm computers. So the decision is really a matter of personal preference. Whichever platform you are most comfortable with or have the most experience with is probably the one you should choose. We have many cross-platform applications in the labs, as well as more specialized software which only runs on one or the other platform, so students will most likely be required to gain some familiarity with multiple platforms over the course of their studies.

Q: Should I buy a laptop or desktop computer?

A: Again, this is really a matter of personal preference. Laptops are typically more expensive and more vulnerable to theft. On the other hand, wireless networking is available in most areas of campus. So a laptop with an 802.11b-compatible wireless networking card is something you may want to consider.

Q: What software should I buy for my computer?

A: We strongly recommend that all students purchase their own copy of Microsoft Office. Our license agreement with Microsoft includes discount pricing on some Microsoft products for students. Please visit their Web site at <http://www.CollegeSoftware.org/> for more information. While CIS has a site license for Sophos antivirus software, you may also want to purchase a current, up-to-date antivirus program. Many of the applications used in courses are available on the network for use in the dorms.

Q: What is the HMC network like?

A: The HMC network consists of a multi-Gigabit per second backbone, with connections to each building's distribution center. From there, high speed switches provide the connections for each user. The network is connected to the Internet via two redundant Gigabit per second connections which are shared with the entire Claremont Consortium. On an average day during the semester, over a Terabyte of data is exchanged on the Internet. We also maintain another 45 Mbps connection for additional redundancy.

In addition, we have connections to Internet-2. This is a consortium of research labs, colleges, and universities that provide high speed connectivity, unimpeded by normal Internet traffic.

Q: What kind of network connection will I have in my dorm room?

A: All of the dorm rooms have 10/100/1000 Mbit switched Ethernet connections. Ethernet allows full access to graphical applications on the local network and to the World Wide Web. In addition it will allow you to run many of the Macintosh and Windows applications from the CIS file servers over the network.

Q: What software and hardware do I need to connect with an Ethernet connection?

A: All new Macintosh computers have built-in Ethernet as do new Windows machines. Add-in cards may be purchased at Huntley Bookstore or at one of the local computer superstores.

Instructions for configuring your network software to access the dorm network can be found on our Web site at <http://www.hmc.edu/cis/doc/how-to/#network>.

For all systems you will also need a CAT5 network cable. This may be included with your system or Ethernet card. The cables are also available from Huntley Bookstore.

Q: Is there anything else I should buy?

A: All students have one live ethernet port in their room. If you have multiple computers and will need additional ethernet ports, you should plan on purchasing a small ethernet hub or switch.

Q: Will Computing and Information Services help me set up my computer when I arrive?

A: Unfortunately, CIS doesn't have the resources to set up and administer dorm computers. Detailed documentation on connecting your computer to the network is available on our Web site at <http://www.hmc.edu/cis/doc/how-to/#network>. There are also many experienced students who can help you out if you have trouble. In addition, you can call our Help Desk at (909) 607-7777.

Q: What computer accounts will I receive when I arrive at HMC?

A: All incoming students automatically receive three computer accounts when they arrive: an account on our main CIS UNIX server, *Odin* (this is the account that most students use for their email); an account on the CIS VMS cluster, *Thuban*; and an account on a CIS Windows 2003 file server, *Charlie*. Your email account has already been created. You should have received information about it in an earlier mailing.

Q: What is the Appropriate Use Policy?

A: The *Appropriate Use Policy* is similar to the HMC Honor Code. It defines appropriate use of computer resources and the campus network. All students are required to read and sign the *Appropriate Use Policy* when they arrive at HMC.

Q: Is there somewhere I can go for more information about computing at HMC?

A: Please visit our Web site at <http://www.hmc.edu/cis/>.

Q: Who can I call when I have a question?

A: If you can't find the answer to your question here or on our Web site you can call our Help Desk at (909) 607-7777. You can also send email to help-desk@hmc.edu.