Mobile Initiative Q&A for Students

Q: What is the Mobile Computing Initiative?
A: Beginning in Fall Semester 2011, all Westminster students, both new and returning, will be required to have access to a laptop computer that meets minimum specifications. Many of our students already have access to a laptop: TLR, a faculty and staff committee interested in learning and technology conducted a survey asking Westminster students how many owned or had access to a laptop. 91% of the respondents replied that they did.

Q: Are students required to own their own laptops?
A: No, students are only required to have access to a laptop. For example, if the student’s parent/sibling has a laptop they can borrow for class then the student will meet the initiative’s requirements.

Q: What are the system requirements for the initiative?
A:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Systems</th>
<th>Hardware</th>
<th>Internet Connection</th>
<th>Web Browsers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Windows 7 (32 or 64 bit)</td>
<td>Laptop, netbook, or mobile device</td>
<td>Broadband</td>
<td>Internet Explorer 7</td>
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<td>Vista (32 bit only)</td>
<td>3 hour battery life</td>
<td></td>
<td>Internet Explorer 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windows XP</td>
<td>Webcam/microphone embedded or add-on</td>
<td></td>
<td>FireFox 3.0</td>
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<td>Apple OS 10.5</td>
<td>Wireless using 802.11 standards g,a,or n</td>
<td></td>
<td>FireFox 3.6</td>
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<td>Apple OS 10.6</td>
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Q: What if a student doesn’t have access to a laptop and needs financial assistance to purchase one?
A: The college is addressing financial concerns regarding the cost of purchasing a laptop by including the laptop cost in the "cost of attendance formula" used to calculate a student’s financial aid package. Even though the cost of an adequate laptop meeting our minimum specifications is about $300, for some students, any cost is difficult to bare. The Financial Aid Office does a wonderful job working with students to help make college affordable. If you are aware of any students who may need assistance; have them contact 801-832-2500 to schedule an appointment.

Q: What if my laptop breaks? What if I forgot my laptop and it is needed for class?
A: Westminster College is installing two laptop rental stations. One is located in the Giovale library and the other in the Shaw Student Union. Both rental stations will charge a reasonable fee to rent the laptops for a number of hours. These laptops will have the Westminster Anywhere platform pre-installed and the battery will be charged.
Q: What if my laptop has a dead battery and I need it for class?
A: Westminster College is installing a number of laptop charging lockers across campus. These charging lockers are a plug-n-go set-up; the students can plug their laptops in, lock it up, and go grab lunch. There are no fees associated with these charging lockers.

Q: Is wireless available around campus?
A: Westminster College has installed a wireless access point in every academic area. This includes classrooms, auditoriums, and student lounge areas. Wireless is also available in student resident halls. Students will need to authenticate to the wireless network using their college username and password. Click here for more wireless information and instructions.

Q: Is wireless printing available?
A: Starting Fall 2011 Westminster College will allow wireless printing via an application made by PaperCut. In order for a student to print wirelessly they will need to visit a website and install a small client. More details about wireless printing will be coming soon!

Q: Will students be able to access academic applications from their laptops?
A: Westminster College has deployed a type of virtual computing called Westminster Anywhere. Westminster Anywhere is a way for students to connect to our servers via the internet. This allows the students to use almost all of Westminster’s academic applications outside the traditional computer lab. Click here for more information on Westminster Anywhere and instructions.

Q: Will Westminster Anywhere work on...
A: Mac- Yes, Westminster Anywhere will work on Mac computers as long as they meet the system requirements.

Tablets- Westminster Anywhere currently is not supported on any tablet devices (iPad, iPad2, Android, Zoom, Galaxy, etc.)

Windows- Yes, Westminster Anywhere will work on Windows computers as long as they meet the system requirements.

Q: What should I use Westminster Anywhere for?
A: Westminster Anywhere is designed to help students complete assignments that require the use of academic applications and provide access to the college’s network. It is not recommended that student’s view videos and/or surf the web.

Q: My professor is requesting I get my laptop certified... What does that mean?
A: Westminster College has created a laptop certification program where students will visit the General Computing Lab, and receive assistance/instructions on how to connect to wireless and Westminster Anywhere. Click here to learn more about the laptop certification program.

Q: What if I need support with Westminster Anywhere?
A: Students are encouraged to call the Computer Support line 801.832.2023 or visit the General Computing Lab for assistance with Westminster Anywhere. The Computing Lab has student technicians that are available anytime the library is open and a full time staff member available Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 6pm. If the technician is unable to help the student, they may be directed to meet with a specialized staff member during working hours, or, sent offsite for computer support.

Q: Will Westminster College fix my laptop if it is broken?
A: Westminster College will provide support for connecting your laptop to our wireless network and Westminster Anywhere; however we will not offer a repair service. If your laptop is broken we will recommend places that you can take it.

Q: Will all Westminster faculty members require laptop use?
A: Westminster College has left the decision on whether to use laptops in the classroom up to the professors. If a student’s professor requires a laptop the student will be notified by the professor and may be asked to get their laptop certified. Laptops are not appropriate for all classes and learning designs. Because of this, some faculty will restrict the use of laptops or technology entirely or limit it to specific activities and times.