

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The use of computers and networks has become pervasive in higher education. However, because information technology has evolved over a long period of time, computer applications and network use are not always straightforward or easy. UC Merced is committed to deploying the best of current and emerging technologies and practices to help students make maximum use of information technology for academic purposes, administrative transactions and other activities.

From applying to UC Merced and tracking the application process to registering for courses and ultimately seeing grades, students will be able to use the Internet. For courses in which they are enrolled, collaborative learning software will allow students to see syllabi, course materials, library resources, assignments, grade books and course calendars; submit assignments; and chat or send e-mail to other students and faculty in the course. Additionally, many courses, including those in the social sciences and humanities, are being designed to use computers in the classroom and/or will have homework assignments using specialized software in computer labs. The campus is planned to be laptop friendly, with wireless access planned in common and outdoor areas, as well as in classrooms. Inside the library, wireless access will be available in the stacks, with electrical outlets in carrels and other work areas.

Students living on campus will have 10/100 MB Ethernet connectivity to the campus network, and secure access to the campus network will be available for those living off campus. All students will have UC Merced e-mail accounts and access to the Internet through CalREN, the California research network. A customizable portal, myUCMerced, will provide a single location from which to access all applications and information, including e-mail, course software, registration materials and information, and much more.

Because of the pervasive use of computer technology at UC Merced, it is strongly advised that students have their own personal computers, which should be capable of running typical Web and word processing applications. Students may find that their specific School has additional recommendations or requirements. Check the UC Merced website in the summer of 2005 for more specific information.

