



2008-09 Academic School Year Computer Requirements and Recommendations

Introduction

Hamline University has set in place security protocols designed to help protect our network infrastructure and its users from the increasing volume and effectiveness of malicious network traffic on the Internet such as self propagating viruses, trojans, compromised "zombie" systems, and criminal hackers. An important part of these protocols included the establishment of a registration system for all personal computers brought on to campus and connected to our network either through a wireless connection or the more traditional hardwire. This registration system requires that all personal computers meet or exceed a minimum standard before being granted access to our network resources which includes access to the Internet. This minimum standard, along with recommendations for those contemplating a new equipment purchase, are detailed below.

If for any reason you have any questions or concerns regarding the requirements or recommendations described here please don't hesitate to call the Hamline Director of Computer Support Services at 651 523-2321.

Computer Registration

When first connecting your personal computer to the Hamline network you will need to open your web browser and attempt to access the World Wide Web; the website you choose is unimportant. You will then be redirected to our computer registration system, called Cisco Clean Access, and provided with directions on how to register your system and gain further access to our network resources to include the Internet itself.

Supported Operating Systems

While there are many different operating systems available today, some of which are very popular within the technology community (Linux, OpenBSD, FreeBSD, Solaris, etc), Hamline University will only allow the following operating systems to access its network resources:

1. Microsoft Windows 2000 Home and Windows 2000 Professional SP4 and higher
2. Microsoft Windows XP Home and Windows XP Professional SP2 and higher
3. Microsoft Windows Vista (any edition)
4. Apple Macintosh OS-X 10.2.8 and higher

Operating System Updates and Security Patches

Our computer registration system, Cisco Clean Access, requires that your personal computer be up-to-date in regards to all security patches and other critical operating system updates released by Microsoft or Apple for your supported operating system version. If you are missing a patch or two, not to worry, you will be able to reach Windows Update and Apple's download sites if necessary to complete the registration process.

Active Anti-Virus and Personal Firewall Software

Hamline requires all computers connected to our network infrastructure to be running an anti-virus software solution and preferably to also be running a personal firewall. Because of this requirement, Hamline University has arranged to provide all faculty, staff, and students of the College of Liberal Arts, Law School, and anyone else living on campus in either the residence halls or apartments, a perpetual license for the latest version of Sophos Antivirus. Whatever vendor you choose for your solution it must be kept up to date on virus definitions and security updates.

Please login to Piperline , www.hamline.edu/piperline and go to Additional Services then to Software Download to obtain your free copy of Sophos Anti-Virus.

Recommended Computer Peripherals

It goes without saying that all computers, whether Windows or Macintosh based, requires a standard set of computer peripherals to be useful. For instance, all desktop computers require an external keyboard, mouse and monitor of some sort. In addition to these though, it is the recommendation of Hamline University that students strongly consider purchasing one or more of the following:

- USB thumb drive, 512MB or larger, compatible with the USB 1.1 standard
- CD-R/CD-RW or DVD-RW burner (external USB models are now quite inexpensive)
- Personal printer

Minimum Computer Requirements

The following minimum computer equipment requirements have been developed after taking into consideration the various programs students might participate in as a part of their academic studies at Hamline and to ensure that the equipment will meet any software requirements placed on it for the current academic year. A computer that simply meets these minimum requirements is not guaranteed to be sufficient to support a student through a full 4 year degree program.

If you are running Microsoft Windows XP or Vista you should have at least:

CPU : 800 MHz or better AMD Duron or comparable Intel Pentium Class Processor
Memory : 256 MB system memory or more for XP, or 512MB or more for Vista (required for Vista)
Hard Disk : 30 GB
Network : Standard 10/100 Base-T Ethernet network card
Wireless (Optional) : Laptops should have a standard 802.11b/g Wireless card

If you are running Macintosh OS-X you should have at least:

CPU : G3 500 MHz PowerPC Processor
Memory : 256 MB of system memory or more (required for OS-X)
Hard Disk : 30 GB
Network : Standard 10/100 Base-T Ethernet network card
Wireless (Optional): Laptops should have a standard 802.11b/g Wireless card

Recommended Computer Requirements

The following computer equipment recommendations represent what we consider to be the ideal system configuration for a computer that is expected to support a student through a full 4 year degree program. It is also our recommended configuration for students taking academic programs that are computer intensive in nature. These recommendations are necessarily high end so feel free to adjust downwards towards the minimum computer requirements listed above if you so desire.

If you are running Microsoft Windows XP or Vista we recommend:

CPU: AMD Athlon 3100+ or comparable Intel Pentium4 Processor
Memory : 512 MB of system memory or more (1GB for Vista)
Hard Disk : 80 GB or larger
Network : Standard 10/100 Base-T Ethernet network card
Wireless : Laptops should have a standard 802.11a/b/g Wireless card

If you are running Macintosh OS-X we recommend:

CPU : Desktops should have a G5 PowerPC Processor (iMac / PowerMac)
Laptops should have a G4 PowerPC Processor (iBook / PowerBook)
Memory : 512 MB of system memory or more
Hard Disk : 80 GB or larger
Network : Standard 10/100 Base-T Ethernet network card
Wireless : Laptops should have a standard 802.11a/b/g Wireless card