

Information Systems Department (Reynolda Campus)

The Information Systems Department supports University instruction, research, and administrative needs.

All students on the Reynolda Campus are given a network login ID; the login is maintained as long as the student is enrolled. This account provides students with access to electronic mail and software packages. Upon matriculation, and again at the beginning of the junior year, undergraduate students receive an IBM ThinkPad as part of their tuition. The current ThinkPad model has a 500 Megahertz Celeron processor, 128 MB RAM, 15.1" active matrix screen, 11 Gigabyte hard drive, CD ROM drive, and diskette drive. In addition to the ThinkPad, all first-year students receive a Lexmark color inkjet printer. Software on the ThinkPad includes Windows 98, Microsoft Office 2000, and Netscape Communicator.

The University has an extensive collection of computing facilities that serve both academic and business needs. A Hewlett-Packard series 3000/979, a 3000/969, and 30 Windows NT servers provide for business computing needs. Three IBM SP/2s provide messaging, systems management, Intranet, and scientific and research needs. These SP/2s contain 7, 10, and 12 computing nodes respectively. The 12-node SP/2 complex performs supercomputing applications in the sciences. Fifty-nine Windows NT servers provide for file and print services and courseware. A Windows NT server and an IBM H50 provide library services. These systems are available to students, faculty, and staff 24 hours a day through network and dial-up connectivity.

Programming languages available on the Academic Computing (AC) system include C, C++, Java, Perl, Tcl/Tk, Pascal, Cobol, Fortran77, and Fortran95. Statistical packages such as SPSS and SAS can be used for data analysis, forecasting, and financial modeling. Maple, a symbolic algebra package, is also available. Using the ThinkPads, students have access to a large variety of instructional and classroom resources through the campus network, including the Library CD ROM network and OCLC FirstSearch.

Many departments on campus have their own computing resources in addition to those available through the Information Systems Department. For example, the Wayne Calloway School of Business and Accountancy and the Education Department have their own microcomputer labs.

Wake Forest has access to computing resources outside the University. The University is a member of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), located at the University of Michigan. Membership in ICPSR provides faculty and students with access to a large library of data files, including public opinion surveys, cross-cultural data, financial data, and complete census data. The University is also a member of EDUCAUSE, a national consortium of colleges and universities concerned with computing issues.

Wake Forest has a 155 Megabit ATM connection to the Internet. Through this connection, Wake Forest has access to CRAY and IBM SP2 supercomputers located at the MCNC/North Carolina Supercomputing Center in the Research Triangle and to all the premier research networks in the World, including Internet II, Abilene, and the VBNS (Very high performance Backbone Network Service). Wake Forest is also working closely with the North Carolina Research and Education Network on other advanced networking technologies.

Information Systems supports and maintains the University's high speed, switched FDDI, Gigabit Ethernet, and Fast Ethernet campus network. This network currently connects all academic and administrative buildings and provides robust interconnectivity for independent building Ethernet networks. Each residence hall room is equipped with two switched Ethernet connections.

The Information Systems Department provides assistance by telephone, and supports walk-in customers, from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday; and 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Sunday. A voice mail retrieval system is activated on Saturdays to respond to emergency calls. Residential computing support is available from Resident Technology Advisors (RTAs).

The Information Systems Department also supports an extensive online information system that includes documentation, class schedules, University-wide activity calendars, the Wake Forest University Libraries information system, and the electronic version of the Old Gold and Black. The Wake Information Network (WIN) provides the University community with faculty, staff, and student databases and directories, an alumni directory, meeting room information and reservation procedures, a forms and documents library, and a message board.