

Information Systems (Reynolda Campus)

Information Systems supports University instruction, research, and administrative needs through computing and telecommunications services. The campus computer network offers high-speed connectivity from all residence hall rooms, all offices, and many classrooms and public areas.

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 an 800 megahertz Pentium III processor, 192 MB RAM, 8 MB video ram, 14" active matrix screen, 20 gigabyte hard drive, CD-RW drive, and diskette drive. In addition to the ThinkPad, all first-year and third-year students receive a Lexmark color inkjet printer. Software on the ThinkPad includes Windows 98, Microsoft Office 2000, and Netscape Communicator, as well as research, analytical, and development tools.

Information Systems also supports an extensive, award-winning information system that includes documentation, class schedules and grades, University-wide activity calendars, the Wake Forest University Libraries information system, and the electronic version of the Old Gold and Black. The Wake Forest Information Network (WIN) provides the University community with faculty, staff, and student databases and directories, an alumni directory, class registration and degree audit services, and customizable links to news, weather, and research sites.

The University has an extensive collection of computing facilities that serve both academic and administrative needs. A Hewlett-Packard series 3000/979, a 3000/969, and 36 Windows NT servers provide for administrative computing needs. Three IBM SP/2s and five free-standing RS/6000 computers provide messaging, systems management, Intranet, and scientific and other research needs. These SP/2s contain 7, 9, and 12 computing nodes respectively. The 12-node SP/2 complex performs supercomputing applications in the sciences. Sixty-two Windows NT servers and four LINUX 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 SPSSX 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, Physics and Chemistry share six DEC Alpha, six IBM PowerSeries, two SUN SPARC, and a SGI Indy workstation. 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 (asynchronous transfer mode) 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 and Abilene. 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 (fiber distributed data interface), 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 one Ethernet connection per resident.

Information Systems provides assistance by telephone, and supports walk-in customers, from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday; and 1 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Sunday. A voice mail retrieval system is activated on Saturdays to respond to emergency calls. On-site computing support is available in residence halls through Resident Technology Advisors (RTAs).

