



## A Student's Guide for Bringing a Computer to Saint Mary's College



Information for Fall 2026

Last Updated: Thursday, February 12, 2026

### ResNet Computer Specifications

#### Recommended for Macs:

macOS version 14 (Sonoma) or later  
Apple M1 chip  
**or** Apple M2 chip  
**or** Apple M3 chip  
**or** Apple M4 chip  
**or** Apple M5 chip  
8GB RAM or more  
256GB hard drive or larger  
802.11X 5GHz wireless network capability  
Microsoft Office 2021 or 365

#### Recommended for Windows:

Windows 11 (Pro or Home)  
2GHz processor or greater, 2-core  
8GB RAM or more  
256GB hard drive or larger  
802.11X 5GHz wireless network capability  
Microsoft Office 2021 or 365

#### IoT Devices:

Most "Internet of Things" (IoT) devices can be connected to our DeviceNet wireless network in the residence halls.

Some devices (PlayStation, Xbox) will have a better experience using the DeviceNet wired (Ethernet) network.

#### To Contact ResNet:

resnet@saintmarys.edu  
[www.saintmarys.edu/resnet](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet)

Computers are integral to the living, learning, and teaching experiences at Saint Mary's College. While there are more than 300 computers available in the residence halls, computer clusters, labs, and classrooms, there is no substitute for having a computer for your personal use. *A Student's Guide for Bringing a Computer to Saint Mary's College* will provide you with the necessary information to buy a new computer for college or bring an existing computer to campus that will best fit your needs and that will connect easily to the campus-wide network.

This guide outlines the specifications required to connect a computer to Saint Mary's College's network, access Saint Mary's accounts and features on Google Workspace for Education, and run network-related software as well as other standard software used by students. It also provides information to help you navigate through both the technical and personal options available to you when purchasing a computer.

When you purchase a computer, you need to spend quality time researching which brands, models, and options best fit your needs. This guide is here to help you find the best computer to match your needs at Saint Mary's College.

**We strongly recommend that you wait to purchase a computer for college until you receive computer purchasing information from ResNet, which will be sent out in July.** At that time, we will be able to offer our specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Dell models to help make your purchasing decisions easier, and you will be able to take advantage of new computer models, educational discounts, and special "Back to School" sales that our recommended vendors offer during the summer.

# ResNet Basics

**Please read this important page, even if you read nothing else in this guide:**

**For the 2026/2027 academic year, ResNet plans to support the following operating systems:**

- macOS version 14 or later  
(includes Sonoma, Sequoia, and Tahoe\*)
- Windows 11 Pro
- Windows 11 Home

**Students who have computers with an unsupported operating system will be unable to receive technical assistance from ResNet.** ResNet will assist students with the process of upgrading their computers' operating systems to a supported version if it is possible.

**Computers with unsupported operating systems may not be able to connect to the BelleNet wireless network on campus, access Saint Mary's e-mail, use features of Google Workspace for Education, run Microsoft Office software, or access other necessary academic resources.**

Google Chromebooks are not supported by ResNet, and a Chromebook will not meet a student's academic needs at Saint Mary's College. Chromebooks may have difficulties connecting to the network, and ResNet cannot provide any technical assistance if problems arise. Chromebooks are also unable to have most course-related software installed, including Microsoft Office, Respondus LockDown Browser, and Exemplify.

ResNet provides basic support for iOS devices (including Apple's iPad and iPhone), including assistance with issues involving connecting to the BelleNet wireless network and setting up the device to access Saint Mary's e-mail. An iPad should be viewed as a complement to a student's computer, rather than as a replacement for a student's computer.

ResNet is unable to perform hardware repairs for students, regardless of the brand or model of device.

*\* Apple historically releases a new version of its operating systems annually. ResNet plans to support the new version of macOS upon its release.*

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## Finding ResNet's Recommended Computers

**In July, ResNet will make specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Dell computer models to help make your purchasing decisions easier.** This information will be sent to incoming students' Saint Mary's e-mail accounts when it becomes available. You can also view our recommended computer models on our ResNet website at [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet).

# ResNet Frequently Asked Questions

## What is ResNet?

ResNet refers to the team that provides technology support to all students at Saint Mary's College. ResNet is available to assist any student who requests our help with technology during the academic year. ResNet at Saint Mary's College provides:

- Wired and wireless network and Internet connections for every student living in the residence halls to connect personally-owned devices, including computers, smartphones, tablets, and a variety of IoT devices.
- Free security software for every student's personal computer (Bitdefender for macOS and Windows computers).
- Free licenses of Microsoft 365 for Students (includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). Microsoft 365 offers full versions of current Office software that can be installed on students' personally-owned computers and mobile devices.
- ResNet Computer Consultants (RCCs) who are available to assist with connecting your computer to the network and other basic technology questions. RCCs will also assist students with the removal of malware infecting their computers.
- The ResNet Office and the ResNet Helpline, which are staffed in the afternoons and evenings during the academic year by RCCs six days a week for immediate troubleshooting assistance.

Saint Mary's College and Information Technology also provide students with:

- A Saint Mary's e-mail account that is accessible from any current computer, smartphone, or tablet with access to the Internet.
- Access to Google Workspace for Education for communication and collaboration tools, with cloud storage for e-mail and Google Drive.
- 802.1X 5GHz wireless network and Internet access throughout campus, including the residence halls, academic buildings, Noble Family Dining Hall, Student Center, and Cushwa-Leighton Library.
- Saint Mary's College participates in eduroam, enabling our students to use their Saint Mary's accounts to connect to the Internet from other area campuses, including the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University, and Purdue University.
- Over 300 computers in our campus computer clusters - areas with networked Mac and Windows computers that have many popular and course-specific software packages installed on them. Any Saint Mary's student can use the computers in the clusters, and there are clusters available in the library, classroom buildings, and each residence hall. Many of these computers are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Even if they own a personal computer, students will often work in the computer clusters because of the software and hardware available. The clusters also provide a study space away from the distractions of a residence hall room.

The Office for Student Equity, in collaboration with ResNet, provides students with access to a loaner laptop that can be checked out for a period of time.

If you are in need of a loaner laptop, please submit your request to [ose@saintmarys.edu](mailto:ose@saintmarys.edu).

## How much does ResNet cost?

Saint Mary's College does not charge a fee for connecting devices to the campus networks or for any technical assistance provided by ResNet.

Saint Mary's College does not provide assistance with hardware problems on students' computers. Students will be directed to local repair options (Hammes Tech Hub at the University of Notre Dame, Apple Store, Best Buy) or computer manufacturers for both warranty and non-warranty hardware assistance.

## Are students required to bring a computer to Saint Mary's College?

No, but having your own computer on campus will greatly enhance your years at Saint Mary's College - both academically and socially. Students use computers daily to communicate via e-mail and messaging (text and video chat), complete and submit assignments, access syllabi and lecture materials, participate in online classes and discussions, research information using the Internet, access library reference materials, analyze data, and register for classes. Bringing your own computer to campus will help you accomplish all of these activities from the convenience of your own device. There are computers available in computer classrooms and clusters for student use, and loaner laptops can be requested from the Office for Student Equity (ose@saintmarys.edu).

## What are your recommended ResNet computer specifications for 2026/2027 for undergraduate students?

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Mac computers include:

- 🍏 macOS version 14 or later (includes Sonoma, Sequoia, and Tahoe)
- 🍏 Apple M1 chip **or** Apple M2 chip **or** Apple M3 chip **or** Apple M4 chip **or** Apple M5 chip
- 🍏 8GB RAM or more
- 🍏 256GB hard drive or larger
- 🍏 802.1X 5GHz wireless network capability
- 🍏 Microsoft Office 2021 or 365

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Windows computers include:

- 🍏 Windows 11 Pro **or** Windows 11 Home
- 🍏 2GHz processor or greater, 2-core
- 🍏 8GB RAM or more
- 🍏 256GB hard drive or larger
- 🍏 802.1X 5GHz wireless network capability
- 🍏 Microsoft Office 2021 or 365

## What are your recommended ResNet computer specifications for 2026/2027 for graduate students?

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for graduate students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Social Work, and Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology programs are the same as our recommended ResNet computer specifications for undergraduate students.

The Master of Science in Data Science program may have system requirements that exceed our recommended computer specifications. The recommended computer specifications for the Data Science program will be shared by the program to its students.

## Why are your recommended ResNet computer specifications so high?

Saint Mary's College has both minimum and recommended computer specifications. Computers meeting or exceeding our recommendations can be expected to meet a student's needs for four years. Most new computers will meet or exceed our recommendations. Computers meeting our minimum specifications will most likely not meet a student's needs beyond two years and may require hardware or software upgrades.

Computers are a major college purchase, and we hope that the computer you bring for your first year at Saint Mary's College will last throughout your four years here. If you purchase a high-end or "business-class" computer now, it will likely still meet your personal computing needs during your senior year. If you purchase a lower-end or "home use" computer, you may need major hardware and software upgrades, if not a new computer, before you graduate to meet your personal computing needs.

Computers, like most things, will last longer if they are of higher quality. This is why we recommend Apple and Dell computers. We know that they will work on our network, that they are reliable computers, and that students have had positive experiences with their warranty/repair services. During the summer, ResNet will make specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Dell computer models to help make your purchasing decisions easier.

In general, if you have additional money to spend on a computer purchase, we recommend upgrading the amount of memory (RAM) in the computer, which will allow for more applications to run simultaneously, improve application performance, and potentially enable the computer to meet hardware requirements for new software for a longer period of time.

If you are purchasing a new computer, please ensure that it meets all our computer specifications first, including a supported operating system, before considering the computer's physical appearance. We have had students purchase particular models of computers because they were available in their favorite color, but the color of a computer does not ensure that the computer will actually meet a student's needs. ResNet's specific computer recommendations for current specific Apple and Dell computer models will likely not match a student's favorite color, but selecting a colorful laptop case will give a student an opportunity to display her personal style and still have a computer that will meet her needs.

## Should I get a notebook/laptop computer or a desktop computer?

Both notebook/laptop and desktop computers are welcome at Saint Mary's College. Approximately 99% of Saint Mary's students on ResNet owned notebook computers during the 2025/2026 academic year.

Notebooks have the convenience of portability. A student can take her notebook computer home on breaks and over the summer, and she can take it with her if she spends a semester or year abroad. She can bring her notebook to the library and to other locations on campus where network access is available. Most students bring their notebook computers with them to their classes, and they also bring their computers when they go to study in locations other than their room.

Saint Mary's students can connect to the BelleNet wireless network (802.1X 5GHz) from their computers, smartphones, and most tablets to access the Internet. Connectivity is available throughout

campus, including the residence halls, academic buildings (including classrooms), Noble Family Dining Hall, Student Center, and Cushwa-Leighton Library.

Saint Mary's students can also connect their devices to the Internet via eduroam while visiting and/or taking classes on other campuses, including the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University, and Purdue University.

Students who plan to study abroad, who expect to participate in activities such as athletics, or who hope to have internships either away from campus during the academic year or away from home during the summer may require the mobility that a notebook computer offers.

Saint Mary's College does not have problems with notebook theft on campus. We strongly encourage students to use notebook locks to secure their computer any time they are not actively using it. Students should also lock down their computers when they bring them to publicly-accessible areas such as the library or while they are kept in their residence hall rooms.

Desktops are not portable, but they are less fragile, less expensive, offer larger monitor options, and usually have greater upgrade potential. Wired (Ethernet) connections are available in residence hall rooms for Internet access for students who prefer desktop computers.

## Should I get a Mac or a Windows computer?

Both Mac and Windows computers can be connected to our network if they meet the requirements listed in this guide, and both are equally supported on campus. The majority of Saint Mary's students prefer to purchase computers with Apple's macOS operating system instead of Microsoft's Windows operating system.

The decision to purchase a Mac computer or a Windows computer is a personal one. Regardless of major, Saint Mary's students will be exposed to both computer platforms while they are on campus.

One thing to consider when purchasing a computer is the prevalence and severity of malicious and unwanted software on computers. While malicious and unwanted software exists on both platforms, the quantity of malicious and unwanted software varieties for Windows computers is significantly higher than for Mac computers. Most threats on Mac computers are PUPs (potentially unwanted programs) that act as adware. Students with Windows computers will spend much more time removing malicious and unwanted software from their computers and spending time on preventative maintenance than Mac users.

Every residence hall on campus has at least one ResNet computer cluster with Mac and Windows computers. The computer clusters in the academic buildings also offer both Windows and Mac computers. The Trumper Computer Center in the Cushwa-Leighton Library provides students with access to Mac and Windows computers 24/7 when classes are in session.

## What about tablet devices such as Apple's iPad or Amazon's Kindle Fire?

Devices such as Apple's iPad and Amazon's Kindle Fire should be viewed as complements to a student's computer, rather than as a replacement for a student's computer.

ResNet provides basic support for iOS devices (including Apple's iPad and iPhone), including assistance with issues involving connecting to the BelleNet wireless network and setting up the device to access Saint Mary's e-mail.

Microsoft Surface tablets running a full version of Microsoft Windows (version 11) are supported as if they were Windows computers, assuming that they meet the other minimum specifications for ResNet support.

Amazon's Kindle Fire, Android tablets, and other non-iOS tablet devices are not supported by ResNet. In most cases, these tablet devices can be successfully connected to the wireless network on campus, but ResNet cannot provide any technical assistance if problems arise. These tablets will not meet students' academic needs at Saint Mary's College.

Google Chromebooks are not supported by ResNet, and a Chromebook will not meet a student's academic needs at Saint Mary's College. Chromebooks may have difficulties connecting to the network, and ResNet cannot provide any technical assistance if problems arise. Chromebooks are also unable to have most course-related software installed, including Microsoft Office, Respondus LockDown Browser, and Exemplify.

## Will any version of Microsoft Windows work on ResNet?

**Saint Mary's College recommends and supports Windows 11 Pro and Windows 11 Home.**

Both versions of Microsoft's Windows 11 operating system will meet the needs of students connecting a new computer to the Saint Mary's network. The choice between the supported Windows operating systems is up to the student, her personal computing needs, and the abilities of the computer.

**If you choose to buy a new computer running Windows, ResNet strongly recommends purchasing a computer that already has a supported version of the Windows operating system installed.**

New computers with Windows will likely have either Windows 11 Home or Windows 11 Pro pre-installed.

Windows 11 SE and Windows 11 in S mode are versions of Windows 11 that have a locked-down configuration and are not supported.

Saint Mary's College does not support any earlier versions of Windows. These operating systems are no longer supported by Microsoft, and as a result, we are unable to provide support for them as well. Students bringing computers to campus with an unsupported version of Windows installed will be told to upgrade to Windows 11.

## Do I qualify for educational pricing on computer hardware or software?

Yes. As a student at Saint Mary's College, you qualify for educational pricing with some computer and software vendors.

ResNet will make specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Dell computer models to help make your purchasing decisions easier. **Our recommendations for specific models will be available in July and they will be listed on our ResNet website and e-mailed to incoming Saint Mary's students. We strongly encourage you to wait until this information is available from us before purchasing a computer for college.** The pricing for our recommended models will include educational discounts and any special offers the vendors may offer.

Saint Mary's College offers *Microsoft 365 for Students* for free to our students. Microsoft 365 offers full versions of current Office software (including Word, PowerPoint, Excel) that can be installed locally on students' personally-owned computers and mobile devices. Licenses for the software can be requested online by active students during orientation and when classes are in session for the academic year. After a license has been assigned, a Saint Mary's student can install Microsoft 365 software on up to five personally-owned devices. The Microsoft 365 for Students license will expire automatically immediately after a student's active affiliation with Saint Mary's College ends (this includes graduation).

## What is Microsoft 365?

Saint Mary's College offers *Microsoft 365 for Students* for free to all current Saint Mary's students.

Microsoft 365 offers full versions of current Office software that can be downloaded and installed locally on students' personally-owned computers and mobile devices. Microsoft Office software includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Microsoft 365 provides the current versions of Office software when you install it locally on your computer. Previous versions of Office software may be available at Microsoft's discretion.

The Microsoft 365 software can be installed on up to five devices that you personally own. Computers (macOS and Windows), iPhones and iPads, Android phones, and Microsoft Surface tablets are all devices eligible to have Microsoft Office 365 software installed. A list of system requirements necessary for Microsoft software, including software available through Microsoft 365, is available at [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/resnetfaq/microsoftspecs.html](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/resnetfaq/microsoftspecs.html).

Only current Saint Mary's students (undergraduate and graduate) are eligible for the Microsoft 365 for Students license. The Microsoft 365 software will expire automatically immediately after your student affiliation with Saint Mary's College ends. Your student affiliation with Saint Mary's College ends if you leave the College for any reason, including graduation. At expiration, the software will enter a reduced-functionality mode (files can be viewed but it will not be possible to edit or create new files) and the OneDrive associated with your Saint Mary's account will no longer be accessible.

Licenses for the software can be requested online by active students during orientation and when classes are in session for the academic year.

## When should I buy a new computer?

**We strongly recommend that students wait to purchase a computer until you receive computer purchasing information from ResNet, which will be sent out in July.** At that time we will be able to offer our specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Dell models to help make your purchasing decisions easier, and you will be able to take advantage of new computer models, educational discounts, and special "Back to School" sales our vendors offer during the summer.

Our recommended Apple and Dell computer models will be listed on our ResNet website at [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet). This information will be sent to incoming students' Saint Mary's e-mail accounts when it becomes available.

## What if I already own a computer?

If you already own a computer that meets the minimum specifications listed, it should connect to the campus network:

- A Mac computer with an Intel processor running macOS version 14 or later, at least 4GB of RAM, a 128 GB hard drive, an installed 10/100Base-T Ethernet card (for a wired network connection), and 802.1X 5GHz wireless network capability meets the minimum requirements need to connect to our network.
- A computer running Windows 11 or later, at least 4GB of RAM, a 128 GB hard drive, an installed 10/100Base-T Ethernet card, (for a wired network connection), and 802.1X 5GHz wireless network capability meets the minimum requirements need to connect to our network.

These minimum specifications are necessary to access Google Workspace for Education (which includes Saint Mary's e-mail accounts), and are enough for a computer to run the current available version of Microsoft 365 for Students.

Computers meeting the minimum requirements may connect to our network and check e-mail, but may not be able to run all of the course-related software provided or access all of the networked College systems. Computers meeting only the minimum specifications will most likely not meet a student's needs beyond two years.

If your computer does not meet these specifications, you may need to upgrade its software or components for compatibility with the campus network and communication tools or purchase a new computer.

## How do I find out the specifications of my current computer?

Instructions for checking the system specifications for your personal computer (running macOS or Windows 11) are available at [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/checkingspecs.html](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/checkingspecs.html).

## How large of a hard drive do I really need?

A hard drive of at least 256GB is our minimum recommended size due to our recent experiences with students. During the past four academic years, we've had students bring new computers to campus with only 128GB of storage space and then been frustrated because they run out of space to save their files before their computer is a year old. The students were not frivolously using up space - it was being legitimately used by the software programs they needed and the assignments they had completed. We would recommend that you consider an option with the largest reasonable storage capacity available so you do not encounter this same issue.

Computers purchased by Saint Mary's College for use by our faculty and staff have a minimum of 512GB or 1TB of storage space.

## Will my computer need an Ethernet connection?

The answer depends on how you plan to use your computer while you are on campus.

Students can have their computers registered on BelleNet (wireless) and DeviceNet (wired) in the residence halls simultaneously, and use the network connection that is best suited for their current activities.

If you plan to use your computer for general web browsing and occasional video streaming, just connecting to the wireless BelleNet network will meet your needs.

If you plan to use your computer for video streaming, online gaming, or transmitting large amounts of data over the Internet consistently, a wired Ethernet connection will provide the fastest and most reliable connection. Computer manufacturers are moving away from having Ethernet built-in because it impacts the size and weight of notebook computers. For computers without Ethernet built-in, we recommend purchasing a compatible Ethernet adapter to connect your computer to the DeviceNet wired network in the residence halls.

Students using a wired connection will need to purchase an Ethernet cable, which can be purchased at Best Buy, Amazon, or other major retailers that sell technology accessories. We recommend a 25-foot cable so it will be long enough no matter how a student configures her residence hall room each year.

Saint Mary's provides the DeviceNet wireless network in the residence halls to accommodate "Internet of Things" (IoT) devices such as televisions, streaming media devices (Amazon Fire TV Stick, Roku Streaming Stick), and digital personal assistants (Amazon Echo, Google Home). We are unable to guarantee the connectivity of all IoT devices on DeviceNet, since many of these devices were designed for home networks and not for enterprise networks such as the one at Saint Mary's College. Issues with connecting an IoT device to the DeviceNet wireless network will need to be addressed by the device's manufacturer.

Some devices (PlayStation, Xbox) will have a better experience using the DeviceNet wired (Ethernet) network. There is a simple registration process for connecting IoT devices to the DeviceNet wired network. Issues with connecting an IoT device to the DeviceNet wired network after the registration process is completed will need to be addressed by the device's manufacturer.

## What software will I need?

All of the applications required to connect to the campus network, e-mail, and the Internet will be made available to each student at no charge to install on her personal computer.

Saint Mary's College strongly recommends that students use Microsoft 365 (which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) while on campus. Saint Mary's College offers Microsoft 365 for Students for free to our students, which includes full versions of current Office software that can be installed on students' personally-owned devices.

Using Microsoft software rather than other word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software packages is strongly recommended because it is compatible with both Mac and Windows computers and is also used by faculty and administrators at the college.

The computers in Saint Mary's computer clusters and classrooms will have Microsoft Office 2021 for Mac and Microsoft Office 2021 for Windows installed for the 2026/2027 academic year.

A list of system requirements necessary for Microsoft software, including software available through Office 365 ProPlus, is available at [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/resnetfaq/microsoftspecs.html](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/resnetfaq/microsoftspecs.html).

Some courses will require specific software to complete assignments. While software licensing restrictions vary, the software is usually made available to students as a free download or it is available for use in the computer clusters and classrooms on campus.

## How can I protect my computer from viruses and malware?

Saint Mary's College requires all computers connected to BelleNet to have anti-virus/anti-malware/security software installed and kept up to date. We provide Bitdefender security software for Windows and macOS at no charge for all students to install on their personal computers.

If a computer on any of the Saint Mary's networks (BelleNet, eduroam, DeviceNet) is infected with a virus or malware (malicious software) and attempts to spread the infection on the network, the computer will be disconnected from the network (including Internet) until the offending software has been removed and ResNet has verified that the computer is clean. This is done to reduce the number of infections on the network and the impact the infections may cause.

## How can I protect my computer from theft?

Saint Mary's College does not have problems with computer theft when students take reasonable precautions. ResNet strongly recommends that students lock their residence hall rooms and purchase laptop locks for their notebook computers. A basic laptop lock is a coated steel cable that connects to the computer through a special slot (the slot is standard on most current laptops) and secures the computer to a large or immobile object, such as a desk. Laptop locks are available with keys (recommended) or with combinations. Laptop locks with alarms or other special features are unnecessary.

## How can I protect my computer from damage?

Saint Mary's College strongly recommends that you purchase an extended warranty from the manufacturer to cover the life of the computer (three or four years). Depending on the brand of computer and the coverage available, this can provide technical assistance with hardware and software problems that may occur during the time you own your computer. Saint Mary's College is unable to provide assistance with hardware problems on students' computers, and students will be directed to the computer manufacturer for hardware assistance.

Saint Mary's College also recommends that students' computers be added to their families' home owner's or renter's insurance policies. The coverage may be an additional cost, but depending on the policy, it may cover issues such as a broken screen, spilled liquid in the computer, or problems stemming from dropping the computer that the computer warranty may not cover. Please contact your insurance company for more information.

## Will there be help available for connecting to the BelleNet network?

### Yes!

At the beginning of the academic year at Saint Mary's College, ResNet distributes information packets (referred to as the "Purple Packet") to all incoming students with instructions for connecting to the campus network. Students are encouraged to set up their own computers, and most students are able to easily connect their personal computers to the Saint Mary's College network with the instructions provided. ResNet Computer Consultants (RCCs) are available during orientation and throughout the academic year to provide individual assistance when necessary.

***Please do not attempt to configure your Internet-capable devices for network connectivity at Saint Mary's before you arrive on campus and receive the instructions for connecting to BelleNet and/or DeviceNet.***

## Can non-computer devices be connected to the BelleNet network?

In addition to computers, students can connect 802.1X 5GHz-compatible devices such as smartphones and most tablets to the BelleNet network.

Devices that are not 802.1X 5GHz-compatible, but need Internet connectivity, can be connected to the DeviceNet network in the residence halls. DeviceNet offers both wired and wireless (2.4GHz and 5GHz) connections, but limitations are in place for specific devices.

Digital personal assistants, such as the Amazon Echo and Amazon Echo Dot, are a popular type of device that can connect to the DeviceNet wireless network. Streaming media devices, including the Amazon Fire TV Stick and Roku Streaming Stick, are also very popular with students and can connect to DeviceNet via both wireless and wired connections. Televisions can also connect to the DeviceNet wireless network for streaming media.

Some devices (PlayStation, Xbox) will have a better experience using the DeviceNet wired (Ethernet) network.

Google Chromecast devices are not compatible with the DeviceNet network on campus.

ResNet is unable to guarantee that every "Internet of Things" device will be able to successfully access the Internet via the DeviceNet network on campus. Many of these IoT devices were designed for home networks, and not for enterprise networks such as the one at Saint Mary's College. Some brands and versions of devices are known to not successfully connect, including some smart plugs (Kasa), light bulbs (Kasa), Friendship Lamps, Lovebox devices, and Hatch Restore devices.

## Will I need my own printer?

Students do not need to bring personal printers to campus. High-capacity laser printers are available in multiple computer clusters and classrooms on campus. Students are also able to print from their personally-owned devices to the printers in the Trumper Computer Center, which is accessible 24/7 when classes are in session.

Some Saint Mary's students prefer to own a personal printer for convenience. If they are brought to campus, personal printers will need to be connected via USB cable. Network printing to personally-owned printers is not available in the residence halls. Personal printers will not successfully connect to the DeviceNet network (wired or wireless).

## Does ResNet support or provide wireless Internet access everywhere on campus?

Saint Mary's College has an 802.1X 5GHz wireless network, BelleNet, that is available across campus, including the residence halls, academic buildings (including classrooms), Noble Family Dining Hall, Student Center, and Cushwa-Leighton Library.

Students may not connect their own personal wireless access points, routers, or other wireless network sharing devices in the residence halls because of the problems they create on our network. Students who connect wireless access points or similar items in the residence halls may lose network connectivity in their residence hall room until their personal wireless access points have been permanently disconnected.

Students should not use their personal mobile devices as hotspots while they are on campus. Activating a mobile device as a hotspot while on campus can negatively impact the wireless connections of your own devices and the devices of others near you.

## What kind of wireless networking would I need to connect to BelleNet, the Saint Mary's wireless network?

BelleNet is the 802.1X 5GHz wireless network available across campus.

To connect to BelleNet, you would need an 802.1X-compatible and 5GHz-compatible device, which includes computers, smartphones, and most tablets.

The BelleNet network on campus is compatible with 802.11n and 802.11ac wireless networking standards.

## What is eduroam, and does Saint Mary's offer it to students?

Saint Mary's participates in eduroam, a wireless network that allows students, faculty, staff, and researchers from participating institutions to wirelessly access the Internet from their home campus and the campuses of other participating institutions without the need for guest credentials or relying on limited guest network access. eduroam provides reliable Internet connectivity when visiting other participating institutions for any reason, including classes, research, and conferences. Area campuses that also participate in eduroam include the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University (including IUSB), and Purdue University.

For additional information about eduroam at Saint Mary's College, and for instructions on how to connect, please visit [www.saintmarys.edu/~eduroam](http://www.saintmarys.edu/~eduroam)

## Can I use my existing e-mail account (iCloud, Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, etc.) while at Saint Mary's College?

All students are automatically given a Saint Mary's e-mail account, and this account can be used to send and receive e-mail anywhere in the world. A student must use her Saint Mary's e-mail account for all e-mail correspondence with Saint Mary's College, including with faculty and staff. If a student uses a personal account (iCloud, Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, etc.) to e-mail a faculty or staff member, the faculty or staff member may not respond. Official notices regarding College closings, severe weather, and other emergencies will be distributed only to Saint Mary's e-mail accounts.

Saint Mary's College uses Google Workspace for Education for e-mail and collaboration tools, with cloud storage for e-mail and Google Drive.

Students are welcome to use their non-Saint Mary's e-mail accounts for personal communication with those outside the College if they wish.

## Should I buy an external hard drive for backing up my data?

Students are responsible for backing up their own data on their computers and other devices. The ResNet Office can guide students through the process of backing up data, but will not complete the backup process for students. There are several backup programs available that simplify and automate the process, including Apple's Time Machine and Microsoft's File Recovery/File History (which are included with our recommended macOS and Windows operating systems), that use external hard drives to back up your files.

Saint Mary's College recommends the Western Digital Passport drives for their reliability, portability, and ease of use. The Information Technology staff uses various Western Digital external hard drives, and Western Digital drives are available for purchase on Amazon and at the Shaheen Bookstore. You should buy an external hard drive that is at least the same capacity as your computer's hard drive, and additional capacity is recommended to allow for multiple backups of your data.

## Do you allow music/video downloads on the BelleNet and DeviceNet networks?

Students are welcome to use Amazon, Netflix, Spotify, Disney+, and other legal sources to download or stream music and videos on the BelleNet and DeviceNet networks.

Saint Mary's College does not permit students to use P2P (peer-to-peer) file sharing applications or even have such software installed on their personal computers if they wish to connect to BelleNet or DeviceNet.

Saint Mary's College occasionally receives cease-and-desist letters from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), and other copyright holders regarding students who are downloading/sharing/serving copyrighted materials on our campus. If Saint Mary's College is notified by a copyright holder (or their designate) that a student is offering copyrighted materials for download, the student's network connection will be disabled to ensure immediate compliance with the copyright holder's request. The student will be contacted by Student Affairs regarding the situation. The student's network connection will only be re-enabled after authorization is given by Student Affairs.

If subpoenaed, the College is required to provide a student's personal information to the copyright holder so that individual/entity may take possible legal action against her. Penalties for violating copyright law could range as high as \$250,000 and five years in prison and/or up to \$150,000 per copyrighted work distributed without permission.

## Is information about ResNet available online?

**Yes!** This guide and additional information about ResNet at Saint Mary's College are available on the ResNet website at [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet).

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## Whom Do I Contact If I Have Questions?

Additional information about ResNet at Saint Mary's College can be found on the ResNet website at [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet).

You are also welcome to contact ResNet directly at [resnet@saintmarys.edu](mailto:resnet@saintmarys.edu) or 574-284-5319.

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# ResNet Shopping Guide

We strongly recommend that students wait to purchase a computer until you receive computer purchasing information from ResNet, which will be sent out in July.

At that time, we will be able to offer our specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Dell models to help make your purchasing decisions easier, and you will be able to take advantage of new computer models, educational discounts, and special "Back to School" sales our vendors offer during the summer.

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Mac computers include:

- 📍 macOS version 14 or later
- 📍 Apple M1 chip **or** Apple M2 chip **or** Apple M3 chip **or** Apple M4 chip **or** Apple M5 chip
- 📍 8GB RAM or more
- 📍 256GB hard drive or larger
- 📍 802.1X 5GHz wireless network capability
- 📍 Microsoft Office 2021 or 365

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Windows computers include:

- 📍 Windows 11 Pro **or** Windows 11 Home
- 📍 2GHz processor or greater, 2-core
- 📍 8GB RAM or more
- 📍 256GB hard drive or larger
- 📍 802.1X 5GHz wireless network capability
- 📍 Microsoft Office 2021 or 365

IoT Devices:

- 📍 Most "Internet of Things" (IoT) devices can be connected to our DeviceNet wireless network in the residence halls.
- 📍 Some devices (PlayStation, Xbox) will have a better experience using the DeviceNet wired (Ethernet) network. Students will need to provide their own Ethernet cables for these devices.

To Contact ResNet:

- 📍 [resnet@saintmarys.edu](mailto:resnet@saintmarys.edu)
- 📍 574-284-5319
- 📍 [www.saintmarys.edu/resnet](http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet)