

Goucher College Wireless Access Policy

A. Purpose

Information Technology (IT) provides the campus community with easy access to the campus network and the Internet through wireless “hot spots” while insuring the security of users and campus network resources. The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Describe how wireless networking fits into Goucher College’s networking services.
2. Describe how wireless services are currently deployed.
3. Describe how to connect to the wireless network.
4. Develop expectations and guidelines for wireless usage.

B. Connecting to the Wireless Network

Goucher College rules, regulations and policies that apply to users of wired network will also apply to wireless network users. Wireless network users are subject to the guidelines outlined in this policy as well as existing guidelines for the wired network. Only registered and authenticated devices are allowed to use the wireless network or access resources on the wired network via the Goucher wireless network.

Wireless access in the residence halls is available in all common areas. In addition, the wireless signal may be available in individual rooms. However, the wireless connection in rooms should not be considered a replacement for the wired connection available for each student in every room. Wireless connections are slower and much more susceptible to interference from other devices such as microwaves and wireless speakers. For a list of wireless “hot spots”, go to www.goucher.edu/it and click on Goucher Network.

In order to connect to Goucher College’s wireless network, the wireless MAC (Media Access Control) address of the device needs to be registered with the Help Desk. The database is used to ensure that only Goucher community members and selected visitors are able to connect to the network. To find out more information on how to find your MAC address and register your wireless device, please visit www.goucher.edu/it and click on Goucher Network.

C. Wireless Devices

Personal wireless access points and wireless routers are prohibited in the residence halls. These devices often provide a broad range of complex network services that may interfere with the performance and availability of the Goucher wireless network. The signal may be detectable in other rooms allowing others to be able to access the network that may cause problems to other students. More importantly, unregulated wireless access points pose a serious security risk that can be exploited by malicious individuals to eavesdrop on wireless transmissions.

If you would like to use more than one computer in your residential hall room, we recommend that you use a hub rather than a router to connect the computers to the

network. Each computer that is connected to the hub will need to be registered through Campus Manager in order to connect to the campus network and to access the Internet.

The use of wireless devices must comply with applicable laws, regulations and college policies including FCC regulations and Goucher College's Computer Use Policy. Keep in mind that several categories of devices use radio frequencies in the same range as 802.11b/g wireless ethernet and therefore other devices using the same frequencies may disrupt wireless communications. Devices such as cordless phones, microwave ovens, and personal network devices using the Bluetooth technology may interfere with wireless devices. These interferences can be intermittent and very difficult to diagnose. IT will make every effort to resolve frequency conflicts between wireless access points.

D. Enforcement

Residents may not tamper with, modify, or extend college network services beyond individual resident rooms. This applies to all network wiring, data jacks, related hardware, and network or Internet services. Wireless access points, which would in effect extend the network beyond the individual rooms and potentially provide wireless connections to others, are prohibited unless specifically approved and installed by IT. Wireless devices such as wireless network cards, which utilize college provided wireless access points, may be used.

Most laptops, including Apple/Macintosh computers, have the ability to allow other users to connect to the Internet through Internet Connection Sharing (ICS). In order to comply with Goucher's wireless policy, the ICS feature must be disabled. Please contact the Help Desk for instructions on how to disable ICS on a PC and Mac's equivalent feature. Personal computers and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) are the only devices authorized to connect to the Goucher wireless network. Since the use of ICS or unauthorized devices pose a security risk to the campus community and to campus network resources, action will be taken against those who violate this policy.

Questions about this policy should be directed to the chief technology officer.