

March 2000

Dear Prospective Student:

A key element of the high-tech learning environment at Georgia Tech is student access to computers. As a condition of your acceptance to Georgia Tech, you will be required to own or lease a computer during your time as a student. After three years of study and evaluation, Georgia Tech implemented a computer ownership policy requiring all freshmen, beginning with those entering in the summer of 1997, and all students joining the class of 2001 (and all subsequent classes) to own or lease a personal computer system. The system provides every student with state-of-the-art technology for information access, learning software, and high-speed communications. Georgia Tech is positioned to allow optimal use of the new student systems:

1. We have in place a high-speed network that links all our buildings and connects us to the world. Each person in each residence hall room has individual access to the network.
2. Our faculty is well acclimated to the use of computing technology and is continuously developing cutting-edge applications for courses across the curriculum.
3. Through the Galileo system, our library provides network access to its collections and those of our 33 member institutions in the University System of Georgia, as well as a number of private universities.
4. The software package that supports our computer requirement is powerful and is designed to enhance the learning process, particularly in basic courses such as mathematics.
5. We have developed a responsive and efficient support program to maintain and repair the computing systems recommended.

To quote from the report of the Institute's Student Computer Ownership Committee:

This initiative recognizes the established importance of computers as "personal productivity tools" and their growing use as educational tools. Computer-based educational materials are being developed at an ever-accelerating rate, and their integration into every subject area taught at Georgia Tech is constantly expanding. The development of the Georgia Tech advanced FutureNet network provides the infrastructure for increased uses for computers. These exciting developments, and our desire to provide the best possible education for our students, led Georgia Tech to undertake this initiative.

The enclosed booklet has been designed to give you the answers to many of your questions regarding student computer ownership. We have also included important phone numbers should you have unanswered questions. Additionally, in June you will receive more information from the Georgia Tech Computer Store regarding their pricing of the required software and hardware, should you wish to make your purchase through them.

Tech students and faculty have always been pioneers, but this is a particularly exciting time to be on the technological frontier.

Sincerely,

Barbara F. Hall