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FEATURES

Free wireless Internet, computer labs offer students needed technology

Alex May
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UNO students can go to several computer labs across campus to get Internet access and to type assignments. (Above) The student center lab is open until 3 a.m.

In the last few years, education has changed dramatically through the use of technology and computers. Twenty years ago, computers were more novelty than necessity, whereas today it's difficult for students to function without them.

Papers are all typed and revised on computers, research is done via the Internet and students and teachers communicate using e-mail.

The online UNO Blackboard system is another example of how vital computers are to learning. If you don't have access to a computer at home or at work, you will most likely need to utilize the lab services offered on campus.

Each lab has different hours of operation, which can be found at the UNO Information Technology Services Web site at its.unomaha.edu. The lab in the Milo Bail Student Center offers extended hours, and is open until 3 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The earliest labs open at 7 a.m., most open between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m.

"The late hours are really nice for me with my busy schedule. I can pop on in and get my work done when it is convenient for me," junior Heidi Engstrom says.

All labs have quality printing available, but a valid student ID card or guest card is required. UNO uses the Uniprint system, which enables the cards to be charged and the amounts deducted with each print job or transaction. Guest cards can be purchased for \$1 at the automatic stations.

The cost of printing is 2 cents per page, with the exception of the library, which charges 5 cents per page. Color copies can be made for a charge of 30 cents per page and is available in the labs located in the student center, Durham Science Center and the library.

The staff members in the labs can be a great resource for any computer-related questions that students may have.

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"We are here to help however we can," said lab consultant Melanie Rueb, who works in both the Durham and student center labs.

If you want to use your own laptop, several areas on campus offer free wireless internet, such as the student center, the library, PKI, Durham Science Center and other buildings. For more information call 554-HELP. For more information about photo ID accounts, visit photoid.unomaha.edu.

UNO operates several user rooms in the following locations: Arts and Sciences Hall, room 300; Durham Science Center, room 104; Health, Physical, Education and Recreation, room 211; MBSC main floor; PKI room 158A; Roskens Hall room 401 and the library.

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