

Policies for Astronomy Department Use of Shared Student Computer Clusters: Swain West 311 and 246A

Adopted: 4/24/2015

Overview: Several student computer clusters are maintained and managed by the astronomy and physics IT support staff for the explicit use by students either (1) engaged in research projects under the supervision of astronomy/physics faculty; (2) enrolled in upper division astronomy/physics courses; or (3) enrolled in specialized introductory courses with a significant computational component. In order to manage these shared resources effectively, the following policies have been adopted for the astronomy department:

Available software: The Mac OS X computers in these labs will be equipped with standard software required for astronomical research and educational applications. This includes, but is not limited to: XCode, gfortran/g77, java, adobe cs, Microsoft office suite, r/rstudio, Mathematica, IDL, fink, remote desktop, IRAF, ds9, sm, topcat, moog14, lmarcs, stellarium, SciPy, SkyCalc, perl, and the AASTeX packages for LaTeX.

This list will be reviewed periodically by the IT staff in consultation with astronomy department faculty for SW311 and physics and astronomy faculty for SW246A.

Requesting additional software: Astronomy faculty may request additional software to be installed at anytime, but should expect the installation to be completed on a timescale that respects the varied demands on IT staff. Advance notice of at least two weeks is recommended.

Creation of student accounts: Astronomy faculty may request new accounts for research students at any time. However, due to the time required to set up each account, requests for entire classes should be submitted well in advance of the start of the semester. Request for physical access to the computer rooms is a separate process: see Kathy Hirons in Physics for card-key access to SW246A and Paige Koehler Bowles in Astronomy for a key to SW311.

Retirement of student accounts: At the end of every academic year, the existing student accounts in the shared computer clusters will be reviewed by IT staff in consultation with astronomy and physics faculty. Faculty mentors will be consulted regarding the disposition of the data in the accounts of graduating seniors and students no longer affiliated with IU. Those accounts will be de-activated and cleared within 6 months of the student's departure from IU. Accounts for continuing students who retain a clear need for these resources (i.e., continued research projects or completion of coursework) will remain. Accounts for students who no longer require access to these resources will be deleted following consultation with the faculty sponsor of the accounts.