

Volgenau School of Engineering

Computing Resources

The Computing Resources department in the Volgenau School of Engineering (VSE) provides and supports multiple resources for Volgenau students. You can find more information on its services and answers to many questions on its website, <http://labs.vse.gmu.edu>. The Computing Resources department will provide assistance with connecting to the systems it manages. Please contact your instructor or TA for help with use of the various applications required for your assignments.

In addition, the Mason Information Technology Services (ITS) group provides support for central computing services. Information on its services can be found at <http://itservices.gmu.edu>

Software downloads:

The Volgenau School subscribes to Microsoft's Azure Tools for Development and VMWare's Academic programs which offer free software downloads to our students. All students in VSE eligible courses receive an invitation to each of those programs at the beginning of their first semester in which they are registered for an eligible course. If you can't find that notification email, please read the relevant Student FAQ on <http://labs.vse.gmu.edu> for instructions on activating your account or resetting your password.

Microsoft does not make Mac versions of most of its software products. If you have a Mac, you will have to use Boot Camp or a Virtual Machine product and then install Windows. Volgenau School students may obtain a renewable one year license for VMWare Fusion through a program sponsored by the Volgenau School. Information on that program is in a FAQ on <http://labs.vse.gmu.edu>. There are also some hints for Mac users on getting Microsoft Windows in the Macintosh Tips FAQ.

Other software downloads, including Microsoft Office, VPN, and SSH clients, can be found on the Mason ITS site at <https://its.gmu.edu> – search for the product you want.

Student computing:

VSE operates a student computing lab in ENGR 1506, which contains Windows PCs. The Windows PCs also run Linux in a virtual machine. Most software used in VSE courses is installed on the computers in this lab – the full list is on the website <http://labs.vse.gmu.edu> as are the hours the lab is open.

VSE also operates multiple Linux, database, and web servers to support various classes. Your course syllabus and/or instructor will provide instructions if you are expected to use a VSE server. All of the VSE servers are protected by a firewall and you must use a VPN client to access them. Please see the relevant FAQ on the VSE computing web site.

Mason's ITS runs a server with Red Hat Linux (Mason cluster) and also a virtual computing environment (Citrix Virtual Lab) supporting multiple operating systems. The Citrix environment supports the off-campus use of various software products. Please see the ITS support site, <https://its.gmu.edu/find-a-service/> for information on either system.