

CCB Research Computing Policy

Last Updated 2/2/24

Overview: Costello College of Business distributes a laptop to every faculty member. The specifications of this laptop have been designated by Mason as adequate for teaching and business needs. The technical needs of faculty performing research sometimes exceed the capacity of this standard computing equipment. In these cases, it is first determined whether the faculty would be best served by working with Mason's Office of Research Computing (ORC). The ORC offers a variety of cloud and cluster computing services that offer vast storage, powerful processing, and 24/7 reliability. Faculty pay for this service using area or research funds. The fees for these services are based on usage, making this an economical choice. More details about the ORC can be found here: <https://orc.gmu.edu/>

Evaluation Process:

A. When faculty ask for computing resources for research, any or all of the following requests will lead to a discussion of the ORC as a potential resource:

- >1TB storage
- >32GB RAM
- >8 core processor
- GPUs
- 24/7 availability (Remote Desktop does not provide this)
- Desire to use cloud or cluster
- Computer will cost >\$2K, with payment requested from IT budget

B. If it is determined that faculty would be best served by the ORC, CCB IT makes the introduction. The ORC proceeds from there. See "ORC Meeting Overview" below for details.

C. If there are concerns around data security, a meeting may be held and include the faculty, ORC, CCB IT, and ITS's Information Security Office.

D. If the faculty decide to work with the ORC, they should report back to Kathi Gelona (kgelona@gmu.edu). She will alert the budget office so that they are aware of incoming invoices.

ORC Meeting Overview:

A. If the faculty decides to explore the use of the ORC, a meeting between faculty and the ORC will take place to determine needs and appropriate services.

B. Faculty must apply for a cluster account and then take new-user video training before they can run jobs on the cluster.

C. Faculty should allow for 1-2 weeks to be fully onboarded, at which point they can use the cluster.