Step 1. Install Your Wireless Ethernet Card
Go to a location on campus where wireless networking is available. Install your wireless Ethernet card and software according to the manufacturer’s directions. A connection wizard should start up automatically, which will connect you to the network. Windows XP will attempt to locate and connect to an available access point.

Step 2. Using Your Wireless Connection
Start up your computer and make sure you are connected. You can do this by checking the connection icon on the task bar, shown here.

Once you enter a coverage zone, your computer will automatically detect an available wireless network.

Double-Clicking on the icon, will display the properties of your connection.
The bars on the connection icon indicate the strength (and speed) of your wireless connection. The following table shows how the connection icon looks in relation to your connection and explains what each variation of the icon means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Icon Bar Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Green Bars" /></td>
<td>If you see green bars, you are connected and have good performance.</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Yellow Bars" /></td>
<td>If you see yellow bars, you are connected, but may have slower performance. If you want better performance, you can move to another location.</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Red Bar" /></td>
<td>If you see one red bar, you have no connection at all and will need to move to another location to connect.</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Troubleshooting Wireless Connections

If you have trouble getting a wireless network connection, you should check the following:

**Signal strength.** If you see red or clear bars instead of yellow or green bars in the task bar, you are out of range and do not have a connection. You may then want to move to another location where the signal is stronger.

**Card installation.** A single green light will appear on your card if the card and its drivers are installed properly in your computer. (A second, yellow, blinking light indicates the flow of data over the network.) If you do not see a green light, check to make sure you followed the hardware and software installation procedures for your card.

**Driver version.** Many cards have outdated drivers, even out of the box. You should make sure your card has the most recent drivers.

**Network Control Panel settings.** (1) Double-check that you have configured the Network Control Panel correctly, as described in Appendix A. (2) Check to make sure you are configured to obtain an IP address automatically (equivalent to using the DHCP protocol). See Appendix A.

**Reboot your computer.** Rebooting is always a good and easy first step in problem resolution.
Appendix A – Checking Your Network Settings

1. Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, then double-click **Network Connections**. Double-click **Local Area Connection**.

2. Click properties to bring up the Local Area Connection Properties window.

3. Select internet protocol (TCP/IP) and then click properties.

4. Be sure that the following items are checked.
Appendix B — Releasing and Renewing Your DHCP Lease

In order to be used on the network, your computer must have an IP (network) address appropriate to your location. If you move your computer from one location to another, you may need to release the current lease and request a new one. The process you will use to do this is called “releasing and renewing your DHCP lease.”

To release and renew your DHCP lease, you will run a program called ipconfig.

**Step 1. View your existing lease**

1. Click and select Run.
2. Type cmd in the Run pop-up window and then click OK. A DOS window (command prompt) is displayed.
3. At the prompt, type ipconfig. Your IP address is displayed.

**Step 2.**

**Release your lease**

At the command prompt, type `ipconfig /release`. Your lease will be released as shown below:

**Step 3. Renew your lease**

1. At the command prompt, type `ipconfig/renew`. You will receive a new lease, and the connection information for your new lease will be displayed. The IP address may not be the same as the one you saw in step 1.
2. Type `exit` to return to Windows