Connecting a Mac to the Secure WiFi Network “UMB-Staff-Fac”

The new UMass Boston wireless network “UMB-Staff-Fac” has a number of important advantages for UMB faculty and staff. Like the student network, it is secure and encrypted, but unlike the student network, it utilizes the 802.1x protocol for added security. Because of this added security, it allows access to services like email and file sharing, which are blocked on the Student network.

Configuring a Mac to join the network

Find the Airport menu in the Mac menu bar at the top of the screen and make sure Airport is on. (See first illustration.)

Select UMB-Staff-Fac. When asked for a password to join the network, enter your email username (the part before the @umb.edu only) and email password. (See second illustration.)

If you successfully enter your username and password, you will be asked to install a certificate from vanguard-sci.umassb.net. (This should only occur the first time you connect. After that, you will only need to provide your username and password.)

If you examine the certificate, you will see that it is self-signed and “not trusted.” Make certain the certificate name is vanguard-sci.umassb.net as shown in the third illustration. If it is, it is safe to continue. Click “Continue.”

To install the certificate, type in your Mac administrator’s password.

You should now be connected to the secure Faculty/Staff network.

More help

If you need further help, you can send email to itservicedesk@umb.edu or call (617) 287-5220. We are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.