What is a wireless network?
A wireless network uses transmitters, called access points, that connect by cable to the existing network. Access points positioned at various locations on campus allow our network to be more broadly and easily distributed. Your laptop with a wireless card communicates with these access points through the use of radio waves.

The wireless card in your laptop will automatically communicate with whichever access point provides the strongest signal. If you move your position, your laptop may change its connection to a different access point. This change of access points is seamless and will occur without disruption.

Where is the wireless network on the VSU campus?
Please see the coverage map. Currently, the vast majority of the campus outside is covered. Indoors coverage is constantly growing, so keep checking the coverage map for updates!

What is the speed of the wireless network on campus?
Wireless network connectivity complies with the IEEE 802.11b standard that enables speeds up to 11 megabits per second (Mbps). However, depending on how many users are currently connected to an access point, this speed may be lower. Even so, a wireless connection is substantially faster than any dialup, cable, or DSL connection.

How secure is it?
Wireless connectivity is not secure by default. It is possible for anyone to spy on unencrypted traffic, but this is not necessarily likely. Generally, any encrypted information will remain secure.

What online services can I use?
Any that you would normally use from a wired connection. This includes GroupWise, Blackboard, the VSU website, and any other third-part internet service.

How safe is it?
Regarding wireless networking, Lucent Technologies says the following:
"Because WaveLAN operates at .25 watts in a bursty mode (cellular phones go up to 3 watts and microwave ovens leak more than that), a user is probably in more danger talking on the car phone or cooking dinner than they are using wireless Ethernet."
All wireless devices currently on the market are approved by the FCC.
("Bursty mode" is the name given to the movement of data, in bursts, on a network.)
Will my wireless card conflict with my Ethernet card/modem?
Both devices should function properly if used one at a time.

What is my username and password?
The same as your GroupWise username and password. VSU tries it best to provide the latest technology without overcomplicating its use.

How do I change my password?
Either through GroupWise itself (see GroupWise information on www.vsu.edu under OIT), or by contacting the OIT HelpDesk.

How can I tell if I am connected?
Upon successful installation of the network card and software, the wireless connection should work. On a Macintosh, an Airport Control Strip should appear. Green dots on the strip indicate the strength of the connection.
On Windows XP computers, a small icon will appear on your system tray: Green bars indicate good performance, yellow bars indicate slower performance, and red bars indicate no performance at all. When you have slow or no performance, it is recommended that you move elsewhere.

Where do I report problems and get help?
For problems accessing the Wireless network, please call the OIT Helpdesk x5210.