Buying a Webcam for Video Calling

OCCS provides the following recommendations in order to assist you in choosing a suitable webcam for making a video call at ODU. We have listed some of the features as well as pros/cons and price range for the recommended models. All of these models can be obtained from the Technology Store on the University. Based on the models listed, how they performed and the costs associated, the Logitech Webcam C210 has the best function for the cost.

Please remember, not all cameras are suited for all environments. Please contact your TSP or the OCCS help desk at occshelp@odu.edu or 757-683-3192 if you need additional assistance.

The cameras listed are only officially supported on Windows Operating Systems (32 and 64-bit). None of these cameras will work on Apple computers. Typically iMacs and Apple Notebooks have built-in webcams. The Mac Pro and the Mac Mini do not. Please contact your TSP for webcam options for the Apple platform.

1. **Microsoft Lifecam VX-800**
   a. Zero setup needed
   b. Audio muted, but understandable. Fine in quiet environments
   c. Light changes can cause problems. Picture may temporarily lag while the camera adjusts itself
   d. Motion creates choppiness
   e. Automatic focusing
   f. Able to be mounted on laptop or desktop monitor
   g. Cheapest solution (under $20)

2. **Logitech Webcam C210**
   a. Audio understandable. Fine in quiet environments
   b. Video quality OK
   c. Has some minor problems with light changes
   d. Automatic focusing
   e. Able to be mounted on laptop or desktop monitor
   f. Mid-range pricing (about $30)

3. **Logitech Webcam C250**
   a. Audio OK. Fine in quiet environments
   b. Video OK, but grainy when moving
   c. Requires manual focusing. Can cause picture issues if changed
   d. Able to be mounted on laptop or desktop monitor
   e. Mid-range pricing (under $40)

4. **Logitech Quickcam Orbit AF**
   a. Need to install Logitech driver for motion controls to work
   b. Audio quality OK. Fine in quiet environments
   c. Not choppy during motion, but is slightly blurry
   d. Video quality slightly improved vs. other cameras
   e. Automatic focusing
   f. Not able to be mounted to screen. Can either be used in smaller included pod or attached to included arm to raise height
   g. Most expensive solution ($100+)