

Duke Office of Information Technology

How to choose a wireless phone

Which phone has the best reception? This question is nearly impossible to answer because many factors go into determining the reception of a given device. Be aware that the thick, stone walls commonly found throughout the Duke campus may deteriorate mobile phone reception.

Which phone is best? There is no one answer to that question. The phone which is best is the phone that best meets your individual needs. We have prepared this list to assist you in making your decision.

? Mobile to Mobile Calls

Both vendors offer unlimited calls to other mobile phones from the same vendor. (ie: Verizon Wireless calls made to other Verizon Wireless mobile phones are air time free.) See [individual plans](#) for full details. If many of the people you will talk with are on a specific vendor, you may want to consider service with that vendor.

? Traveling outside of the Carolinas?

Both vendors offer full service and features in the Triangle area. If you will travel outside of the Carolinas, you should consider a Verizon plan. [View coverage maps.](#)

? Expected Monthly usage

Alltel Wireless offers our lowest usage plans. You should compare the rate plans based on your expected usage.

? Interested in a device with Data Capabilities?

If you want a device that has data capabilities (email, calendar, web access, etc.) you should consider several things.

? What speed do I want the device to be?

? There are two different data networks, [EV-DO](#) (faster/broadband) and [1xRTT](#). EV-DO capable devices work on both EV-DO and 1xRTT networks at the fastest available speed. 1xRTT devices only work on 1xRTT networks.

	Alltel Brand Name	Verizon Brand Name
1xRTT	Axcess MobileLink	NationalAccess & Enhanced Services
EV-DO	Axcess Broadband	BroadbandAccess & V CAST

- ? You should look at the different [coverage maps](#) to determine if coverage is provided in the area(s) where you will use the device.
- ? You should consider the [monthly service rates](#) for the type of service that you are interested in. Duke only offers unlimited data plans for all data devices.
- ? [Consider whether your email/calendar system is supported.](#)

Still want more help?

You can find a wealth of information on the Internet. The sites below are provided as reference only. We cannot verify the accuracy of all the information these sites provide.

You must place your request for Duke service through Duke OIT's website to receive Duke discounts and billing. Below are some outside resources to help you choose the device, service plan and/or features that are best for you.

- ? [Alltel Phone Selector](#)

- ? Looking for definitions on what all this stuff means?

[Phonescoop.com glossary](#) [WirelessAdvisor.com glossary](#)

- ? Want to do side-by-side device comparisons?

[Phonescoop.com phone comparison](#)

- ? Want some more information on handheld computing devices?

[Brighthand](#) offers news and advice for the novice and pro. [MyProductAdvisor](#) offers advice on selecting PDA devices.

- ? Other links of interest for mobile phone and handheld devices. (Duke does not endorse or vouch for

[List of links from phonescoop.com](#) [CNET Mobile phone reviews](#)

Duke Office of Information Technology - www.oit.duke.edu - (919) 684-2200 - help@oit.duke.edu