Computer recommendations for college 2022-2023

Operating system

Windows 10 (Professional, Education, Enterprise, or Home)

Mac OS X 10.14 (Mojave) or newer

Processor (CPU)

Windows: Intel Core i5 (7th generation/7000 series) or AMD Ryzen or better.

Mac: Intel Core i5 (7th generation/7000 series) or Apple M1 or better. **Note:** M1 Macs are currently unable to run Windows through Boot Camp.

Monitor and video card

Laptop: 13" screen or larger.

Desktop: 19" monitor or larger, dual-monitor capable video card.

If doing a lot of 3D rendering or other graphic processing-intensive tasks, dedicated video memory is recommended.

Storage

256 gigabytes or larger preferably solid-state drives.

Memory (RAM)

8 gigabytes or more for typical use.

16 gigabytes or more for Adobe Creative Suite applications and other graphic and video intensive applications.

Software

- **Required:** Antivirus Software. Windows Defender is sufficient for Windows 10 computers.
- **Recommended:**

  - Microsoft Office is **available for free** for both Mac and PC as part of STAC's Office 365 service. **There is no need to purchase Office.**
  - Tool to read PDFs, such as Adobe Reader.

Networking

An internet connection speed of **4Mbps minimum** with a **recommendation of 10Mbps or greater**.

At least one of the following is required - check with staff where you will be living to determine what type of connection is available:

- **Ethernet card:** for the on-campus, residence hall, and broadband access.
- **Wireless card:** 802.11ac or Wifi 5 is recommended for wireless access on campus. (A wireless network card that supports both 2.4Ghz and 5Ghz wireless bands is preferred)

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Multimedia

Built-in or external speakers, microphone, and webcam are recommended

Other recommendations

- Web applications occasionally do not work well with all browsers. Individuals are encouraged to install at least one alternative browser (either Chrome or Firefox) in addition to the default browsers provided with the operating system.
- Netbooks and tablet computing devices do not have the computing power of a normal laptop or desktop computer, for this reason, they are not recommended for use as a primary computer at STAC.
- Purchase hardware with USB ports and audio jacks that are easily accessible.