

MACU Office of Information Technology

Minimum vs Ideal Computer Specifications

Minimum Specs:

- Operating system: Windows 10
- RAM: 8 GB
- Solid State Hard Drive: 256 GB SSD
- Processor Intel core i3, AMD Ryzen 3

Ideal Specs:

- Operating system: Windows 11
- RAM: 16 GB
- Solid State Hard Drive: 512 GB SSD
- Processor Intel core i5, AMD Ryzen 5

Functional Considerations:

- Integrated webcam & microphone
- A 10-key number pad is recommended for business or accounting classes
- Screen size: You don't want to get something too small and strain your eyes. 15" is standard.

Things to Avoid:

- Chromebooks: They may look like laptops from the outside, but the operating system may not run the required software for some classes
- HDD (Standard Hard Drive): The performance is considerably worse than a SSD (Solid State Drive).
- Tablets/Smartphones: They are not sufficient for class participation.

Which Brand?

A computer's brand does not have a major impact on performance. We recommend consumers purchase their device from a reputable retailer, such as Best Buy or a local computer shop, where they can receive advice from knowledgeable and trustworthy personnel.

What about Macbooks?

The recommended hardware specifications for Apple computers are the same as for PC; however, users will begin to see limitations on Operating System upgrades as a Mac ages. Our recommendation is for Apple users to maintain a computer that is 5 years or newer. Older versions will only allow you to update your web browser and programs to a certain point. After that, certain plugins and website features may stop working.

Recommended Software (no cost):

- [Adobe Reader](#)
- [VLC Media Player](#)
- [Google Chrome \(web browser\)](#)
- [Mozilla Firefox \(web browser\)](#)
- Microsoft Office 365: Available to students for free through the office 365 OneLogin tile

