



THE 24/7 UITS IT SUPPORT CENTER

Recommendations on Computers for Students 2010–2011

Most UA students are not required to own a computer. Ample computing resources are available in many convenient campus locations. Consult the web links below for details on campus labs and UA technology services, or contact the Office of Student Computing Resources (OSCR) at oscr@email.arizona.edu or (520) 621-OSCR (6727) for information about OSCR labs. If you have any questions about computer recommendations please contact the 24/7 IT Support Center at (520) 626-TECH (8324).

A few departments have *official* computer requirements for students in certain programs. The 24/7 recommends that students inquire within their chosen department, school or college regarding official computer recommendations applicable to their course of study.

The information provided is current for the year noted above. It represents the recommendations of the technical staff of the 24/7. Equipment information is intended as guidance for students and parents interested in purchasing new computing equipment. The 24/7 IT Support Center does not officially endorse any particular vendor or computer model. Several specifications are offered in two categories: *basic* and *multimedia capable*.

Configurations for Basic Computing

The 24/7 IT Support Center's definition of *basic computing* involves the following activities: word processing, creating spreadsheets, simple presentations, accessing the internet, email, listening to music, and some gaming. The configurations below are recommended:

| Component | PC Desktop | PC Laptop | Mac Desktop | Mac Laptop |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Operating System:</i> | Windows 7 (Home Premium or better) | Windows 7 (Home Premium or better) | Macintosh OS X (10.6 or better) | Macintosh OS X (10.6 or better) |
| <i>Processor (CPU) Speed:</i> | Intel Core 2 Duo E5200 (2.4GHz) or AMD Athlon 64 X2 5000 dual-core (2.6GHz) | Intel Core 2 Duo T6400 (2.0 GHz) or AMD Turion 64 X2 Dual-Core RM-75 (2.2 GHz) | 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo (iMac) | 2.4 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo (MacBook) |
| <i>Hard Drive:</i> | 250GB | 160GB | 500GB | 250GB |
| <i>Memory:</i> | 2GB | 2GB | 4GB | 2GB |
| <i>Disk Drives:</i> | DVD+RW DL | DVD+RW DL | DVD+RW DL | DVD+RW DL |
| <i>Networking:</i> | 10/100/1000 Network Card | 10/100 Network Card AND 802.11b/g wireless card with WPA enterprise security | 10/100/1000 Network Card | 10/100/1000 Network Card AND AirPort Extreme card |
| <i>Monitor:</i> | 19" or bigger | 12"-17" Display depending on eyesight and portability | 21.5" or bigger | 13.3" or bigger depending on eyesight and portability |



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|--------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Misc.: | Keyboard, Mouse, Speakers | Optional: Wireless/Bluetooth Mouse, Speakers | Keyboard, Mouse, Speakers | Optional: Wireless/Bluetooth Mouse, Speakers |
|--------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|

Configurations for Multimedia Computing

The 24/7 IT Support Center's definition of *multimedia computing* involves manipulating large files typically associated with activities including creation of photographic or still images, digital video, digital audio, animations, 3D rendering, interactive web development, etc. Multimedia technologies are costly and require a significant investment of time to master. The 24/7 IT Support Center strongly urges students interested in multimedia to investigate available campus resources prior to making personal investment in this technology. OSCR's multimedia consultants are available to assist in determining what hardware and software are appropriate for students with multimedia interests.

If you have further question about multimedia computing, visit OSCR's Multimedia Zone in the Information Commons (520) 626-3993 or Multimedia Learning Lab in MUS 137 (520) 621-9404, Ext. 1, or email oscr@email.arizona.edu

| Component | PC Workstation | Mac Workstation |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Operating System:</i> | Windows 7 x 64 (Home Premium or better) | OS X (10.6 or better) |
| <i>Processor (CPU) Speed:</i> | Intel Core i7-920 (2.66) /AMD Phenom II X4 940 (3.0GHz) | Intel Core i5 (2.66) /Intel Core i7 (2.8GHz) |
| <i>Hard Drive:</i> | 500GB or more | 500GB or more |
| <i>Memory:</i> | 4GB | 4GB |
| <i>Disk Drives:</i> | DVD±RW DL BluRay±RW | DVD±RW DL BluRay±RW |
| <i>Networking:</i> | 10/100/1000 Network Card | 10/100/1000 Network Card |
| <i>Monitor:</i> | 27" or bigger | 27" or bigger |
| <i>Video:</i> | ATI Radeon HD 4870/ nVidia GeForce GTX 260/nVidia Quadro FX 4800 or better | ATI Radeon HD 4870/ nVidia GeForce GT 120 or better |
| <i>Misc.:</i> | IEEE 1394A/B Firewire, Keyboard, Mouse, Speakers | IEEE 1394A/B Firewire, Keyboard, Mouse, Speakers |



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Shopping Tips & Useful Web Links

Discounts for UA students are available on campus at the Computer and Technology Store (CATS) located in the basement of the Main Campus Bookstore, and through a variety of commercial vendors, some of which are noted below. Warranty service is an important feature of your computer purchase. Be sure you understand the terms of your policy. Extended warranties and accidental damage policies are available from most vendors.

- The 24/7 IT Support Center: <http://247.arizona.edu>
- Office of Student Computing Resources: <http://oscr.arizona.edu>
- Discussion forums on computing: <http://forum.oscr.arizona.edu>
- Residence Halls Computing: <http://www.life.arizona.edu/rescomp>
- University Information Technology Services: <http://uits.arizona.edu/>
- Computer and Technology Store: go to <http://www.uofabookstores.com/uaz> and click on the Computer Store link
- Newegg: <http://www.newegg.com/>
- Lenovo: <http://www.lenovo.com/>
- HP: <http://www.shopping.hp.com/>
- Dell: <http://www.dell.com/>