

Computer Recommendations

Incoming Arts and Sciences Students
Fall 2013

Welcome to Pacific University! Information technology is an integral part of modern classwork and academics and so a **laptop is strongly suggested for all incoming Arts and Sciences students.**

See a list of IT resources (including wireless internet) available to students at www.pacificu.edu/UIS/CurrentStudents/

What kind of laptop should an Arts and Sciences student bring to Pacific University?

Pacific University recommends you acquire the best laptop you can afford because technology continues to advance at a very rapid pace.

Mac vs. PC: Pacific University supports both PC and Apple computers. Individual disciplines (e.g. graphic design, accounting) may have a platform that is preferred within that discipline. A faculty advisor can help you discover if this is true for the discipline you are interested in entering.

Financial Aid: It may be possible to increase your cost of attendance for the documented cost of a computer, which may allow you to borrow additional funds. Contact the Financial Aid Office for information.

Discounts: You are free to order your computers, software and services from whichever vendor gives you the best value. Discounts for students are available on the “Discount Programs” link on www.pacificu.edu/UIS.

Operating System and Office Suite: Your new computer should have Mac OS 10.8 (Apple computers) or Windows 7 or 8 (PC computers). The standard productivity software in use at Pacific University is Microsoft Office. There are several versions of Microsoft Office available but we recommend, at least, the Microsoft Office 2013 Home & Student edition (Windows) or Office 2011 (Mac), which includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Note that Apple iWork (Pages, Numbers, Keynote), Microsoft Works, or other MS Office alternatives are not supported substitutes for MS Office.

Warranty: The University offers technical support to students, however we are not able to fix every problem. A computer failure can severely impair your academic work and so **the purchase of a multi-year extended warranty with on-site repair is strongly recommended.**

English Version: Please note that our ability to support non-English versions of Windows or Mac OS are extremely limited. We strongly suggest that you **buy your computer with an English language version of the operating system.**

Tablets: Mobile devices running iOS, Windows RT, Android, or other mobile operating systems can be valuable tools for students at Pacific University, but are not supported as a replacement for a laptop computer running Mac OS X or Microsoft Windows.

Windows Restore Disks: We strongly recommend that you either purchase operating system restore disks with your new laptop or, when your laptop has this capability, burn your own restore disks. This will allow your computer to have its operating system restored in the case of bad corruption of a hard drive failure. Please note that you may not be able to purchase restore disks after the initial purchase of your computer.

This is a publication of University Information Services. For further assistance please contact the Technology Information Center (503-352-1500, lower level Marsh) or University Information Services for the Health Professions Campus (503-352-7243, HPC 211) or email help@pacificu.edu.

Minimum PC System Specifications:

- 4 GB RAM or greater
- 128 GB hard drive or larger (flash or traditional)
- Ethernet LAN enabled and Ethernet cable (cable not typically included with a new laptop)
- 802.11a/g/n built-in wireless
- Windows 7 or 8, English language version.
- Microsoft Office 2013 Home & Student Edition (including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)
- 3 year minimum on-site warranty/service contract
- VGA output capability or VGA display adapter
- System restore or operating system reinstall disks

Minimum Mac System Specifications:

- 4 GB RAM installed
- 128 GB hard drive or greater (flash or traditional)
- Ethernet LAN enabled (or Ethernet USB Adapter on MacBook Air)
- Apple OS 10.8 or greater
- Microsoft Office 2011 or better (including Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- 3 year minimum Apple Care warranty or third party service contract
- VGA display adapter (not typically included with a new MacBook)

Recommended But Not Required:

- External Hard Drive for backup purposes (3 times the size of your hard drive recommended)
- 8 GB or higher USB (Flash) drive
- Printer for home use²
- Carrying case or hard-shell case
- Flexible keyboard cover for spill protection

Antivirus: To help offset your costs, Pacific University provides each student with a licensed version of Symantec Anti-Virus, available for download upon your arrival. The license is free and valid as long as you are a registered Pacific University student. Once you are on campus, go to getav.pacificu.edu to download the program.

² Pacific University provides both black & white and color printing at multiple locations on the Forest Grove campus as well our Hillsboro and Eugene campuses. Current printer rates are \$.05 per page for black & white and \$.25 per page for color. For many students the pay-for-printing system obviates the need for a home printer.

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