



Department of Communication Arts Technology Recommendations

Communication and Public Relations

Technology is an important part of the educational experience. In many cases the technology may not be used in class but will be required to complete class assignments. Determining what technology is needed can often be confusing to students and their parents. To alleviate this confusion, the Department of Communication Arts created technology standards designed to help ensure that students have the computer technology they need.

Software

The Department uses two basic software packages in classes: Adobe Creative Cloud and Microsoft Office 365. Adobe Creative Cloud is available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/creativesuite/design-web-premium/tech-specs.edu.html>. Office 365 is available from the University at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/helpdesk/vsu-accounts/office-365.php>.

The selected software runs on both a laptop and a tablet.

Students will use a number of open source or free applications in various courses within their program of study. These applications include:

- Socrative
- Storify
- GanttProject
- Real Statistics Add-in for Excel
- Zotero
- Grammarly (available by site license from the Department)
- Freemind
- iMovie or Windows Moviemaker

Hardware

Laptop

We recommend an **Apple MacBook Pro 13"** (Base model meets recommendations).

If you already own a Windows computer, it might be acceptable as long as it can run the software needed for your classes.

Tablet

If you wish to use a Tablet instead of a Laptop computer, we recommend an **Apple iPad Pro with 128GB** of memory.

Peripherals

Laptop

We recommend that you purchase the following items for a laptop:

- **carrying case** or laptop backpack
- the extended **four-year warranty** with accident protection
- either a portable **external hard drive** for backup or a remote backup service

Tablet

We also recommend that students purchase the following items for a tablet:

- Protective Cover
- Extended warranty
- Backup service (Cloud)
- Apple Pencil
- Smart Keyboard

Financial Assistance

It is often possible to obtain financial assistance to purchase a computer. The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 allow for the purchase of a personal computer and software costs to be added to a student's educational expense budget that is used to determine financial aid eligibility. A budget increase does not necessarily result in additional financial aid to cover the cost. Students who have borrowed their annual or aggregate loan limits may not have eligibility remaining.