

CS Upper Division Laptop Policy

Students registering for upper division (300- or above) Computer Science courses, must have access to a *laptop* with wireless Internet access meeting the following recommended requirements for use in the classroom. Chromebooks, iPads, and similar devices do not meet the operating system and hardware requirements to run many applications that may be used in various CS courses.

The Department of Computer Science does not require a specific laptop because of the dynamic and diverse character of the computer marketplace. Rather, we encourage students to make their own choice of specific manufacturer and configuration. We have established minimum requirements as guidance that can be found on the CS Department's Website [*link to CS website here*].

We suggest you shop around for the best pricing on laptop computers that meet the minimum requirements. Reliability and support should be strongly considered in your decision. There are many sources of independent laptop evaluation available on the internet, and you should also seek recommendations from other current laptop users.

Proposed Minimum Requirements for Fall 2021 [for discussion, separate from policy]

	PC	MAC
CPU	Intel Core i5 or i7 or equivalent	Intel Core i5 or i7
RAM	8G minimum 16G preferred	8G minimum 16G preferred
Disk	250GB minimum, 500GB preferred	250GB minimum, 500GB preferred
External Port	USB 3.0 or USB C or adaptor	USB 3.0 or USB C or adaptor
OS	Windows 10, 64 bit	Generally, within 2 versions of the most current OS version (?)
Networking	Wireless network adaptor	Wireless network adaptor
Video	hdmi port or adaptor	hdmi adaptor
Software	Virtual box w/linux OS; putty; word processing, presentation and spreadsheet software that can read and create .doc, .ppt and .xls files; Anti-Virus Software; Chrome Web Client; Adobe branded PDF Reader; other software as required for specific classes.	Virtual box w/linux OS; word processing, presentation and spreadsheet software that can read and create .doc, .ppt and .xls files; Anti-Virus Software; Chrome Web Client; Adobe branded PDF Reader; other software as required for specific classes.
Battery	Battery capacity to allow 4 hours of use without recharging.	Battery capacity to allow 4 hours of use without recharging.
Warranty	4-year warranty or protection plan recommended	

Sample refurbished PC @\$310: <http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=6065273&CatId=4935> (Dell Latitude E5470 Notebook PC - Intel Core i5-6300U 2.4GHz, 8GB DDR4 RAM, 256GB SSD, 14" HD Display, 3x USB 3.0, HDMI, VGA, Win 10 Pro 64-bit, 1 Year Warranty)

Sample new PC @\$450: <http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=6757014&CatId=4935> (HP EliteBook 840 G3 Laptop - Intel Core i5-6300U 2.4GHz, 8GB DDR4, 256GB SSD, 14" FHD 1920x1080 IPS Anti-glare LED, HD Graphics 520, WiFi, BT, Webcam, 1x USB-C, Windows 10 Pro 64-bit)

While requiring the purchase of a several hundred-dollar laptop may seem extreme, note that in Winter 2020, the textbooks for several required CS courses (new, hardcopy) cost this much at the PSU bookstore:

CS320 \$276

CS300 \$193

CS486 \$213

Adapted from:

WSU: <https://school.eecs.wsu.edu/students/laptop-requirements/>

OSU: <https://engineering.oregonstate.edu/current-students/advising/laptop-requirements>

UT Austin: <http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/laptop-system-requirements-undergraduate-programs>

Texas A&M: <https://engineering.tamu.edu/academics/byod/devices/index.html>