

Purchasing a Computer for College



These recommendations focus on hardware specifications and are meant to provide a general guideline for purchasing a new computer.

Computing Needs - if you plan to use your computer mainly for research, typing papers, social media, and/or e-mail, a basic level computer will do the trick.

We recommend systems that meet or exceed the following specifications for either Mac and Windows based computers:

- Processor (CPU) – 2.4 GHz + Core i5
- RAM – 8 GB
- Storage – 256 GB Solid State Drive (SSD)
- Monitor/Display – 13 to 15 inch LCD monitor, resolution of 1600 x 900

If you plan to use your device for streaming movies, online gaming, multimedia editing, and/or graphic or 3D design, you may want to purchase a device with an upgraded processor, increased RAM (at least 16GB), and a dedicated graphics card.

Additional Information:

- No Need to Purchase Microsoft Office - you can either use the productivity tools provided with your Ripon issued G Suite account (formerly Google Apps) or download a free copy of MS Office on your personal device through our Microsoft Campus Agreement (Office 365). Students will receive more information in the fall.
- **Anti-Virus Software** - included with Windows 10.
- Don't forget to purchase a **protective case/bag** for your laptop or tablet.