

Recommendations for a new computer system

(1)-Don't buy a Chromebook. (2)-When choosing between Windows and Mac, choose the system you know best or know you need for your major in college. (3)-If bringing an older computer, be sure it is less than 2 years old and matches the minimum levels below.

Windows PC

Feature	Minimum-Level Recommendations	Recommended-Level	Top- Level Recommendations	Rationale for Recommendations
Processor	Intel Core i5 12 th generation CPU or AMD Ryzen 5 processor	Intel Core i7 13 th generation CPU or AMD Ryzen 7 processor (six core and above)	Intel Core i7 13 th generation CPU or AMD Ryzen 7 processor (six core and above)	<p>The Windows 11 operating system and applications are written for it will require advanced processors to be used effectively.</p> <p>A higher processor speed will allow your computer to do more at once and run faster.</p>
RAM (also called memory)	16 GB DDR4 or more	16 GB DDR5 or more	32 GB DDR5 or more	<p>Memory demands for Windows 11 will require at least 4 GB of memory just for the operating system. The more money you can apply toward this, the better.</p>
SSD (Solid State Drive) OR HDD (Hard Disk Drive)	512 GB SSD or more	1TB SSD or more	2TB NVMe SSD or more PLUS 500GB HDD	<p>SSDs are faster than traditional HDDs. If you can store larger files (e.g., movies, large pictures, CAD files) on a HDD and use the SSD for your OS and to run normal daily work, the faster your PC will be.</p>

Networking	Build in LAN 10/100 (Ethernet) for all systems; wireless (Windows: 802.11b/g/n)	Built-in LAN Gigabit (Ethernet) for all systems; wireless 802.11b/g/n); Bluetooth 5.1	Built-in LAN Gigabit (Ethernet) for all systems; wireless 802.11b/g/n) – WiFi 6; Bluetooth 5.1	Wireless is available in all residence halls. Please do not bring any personal routers to campus as this will interfere with available wireless.
Operating system	Windows 10 Home	Windows 11 Home	Windows 11 Pro	New Windows PCs will have Windows 11 installed
Display	Minimum resolution of 1920x1080 for 16:9 or 16:10 screens, 1600x900 for 4:3 screens			
Graphics Card	Integrated Graphics	Dedicated Graphics Like NVIDIA or AMD	Dedicated Graphics like NVIDIA or AMD	Integrated graphics are slower but cost less and are sufficient if not doing hardcore graphics intensive work or gaming. Otherwise, you want a better graphics card.
Support & Protection	Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for the expected life of the machine and a laptop bag to protect your computer.	Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for the expected life of the machine and a laptop bag to protect your computer.	Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for the expected life of the machine (3-4 years) and a laptop bag to protect your computer	Especially for laptops, having an extended warranty lets problems caused by performance to be looked at and some warranty's cover accidental damage such as drops and spills.

Lock	You should consider a portable lock kit to secure your laptop to a chair, table, etc. Just Google: portable lock kit for laptop	You should consider a portable lock kit to secure your laptop to a chair, table, etc. Just Google: portable lock kit for laptop	You should consider a portable lock kit to secure your laptop to a chair, table, etc. Just Google: portable lock kit for laptop	
Software (FREE to ECU Students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to ECU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to ECU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to ECU students!)	Recommended: Malwarebytes Anti- Malware & Antivirus Software
Accessories	USB Thumb Drive External DVD (optical) drive	USB Thumb Drive External DVD (optical) drive	USB Thumb Drive External DVD (optical) drive	USB thumb drive is for extra storage you can move from computer to computer External DVD drive lets you watch movies on your computer
Other considerations you may want to consider	Camera and Microphone, unless built-in, external hard drive for backups; USB 2.0 or 3.0	Camera and Microphone, unless built-in; external hard drive for backups; USB 2.0 or 3.0; headphones	Camera and Microphone, unless built-in; external hard drive for backups; USB 3.0; headphones; 1 HDMI port	

Mac PC

Feature	Minimum-Level Recommendations	Recommended Level	Top- Level Recommendations	Rationale for Recommendations
Processor Speed	Apple M1 Chip	Apple M2 or M2 Max Chip	Apple M3 or M3 pro chip	A higher processor speed will allow your computer to do more at once and run faster.
RAM (also called memory)	8GB unified or more	8-16GB unified or more	16-24GB unified or more	The more RAM will also allow you to run more applications concurrently without seeing a slowdown.
SSD (Solid State Drive)	512GB or more	1TB or more	2TB	SSD is faster!
Screen Resolution	2560x1664	2560x1664	3024x1964	Mac Air has 2560x1664 pixels Mac Pro has 3024x1964 pixels
Networking	Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) Bluetooth 5.3	Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) Bluetooth 5.3	Wi-Fi 6E (802.11ax) Bluetooth 5.3	
Operating System	Ventura	Ventura or Sonoma	Sonoma (or the newest one)	Should always keep OS and apps up-to-date
Graphics Card	Integrated mac GPU	10-core GPU	10-core GPU	

Support & Protection	Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for the expected life of the machine and a laptop bag to protect your computer.	Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for the expected life of the machine and a laptop bag to protect your computer.	Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for the expected life of the machine and a laptop bag to protect your computer.	The mac comes with 1 year of AppleCare+ default. Best to get an extended warranty
Lock	You should consider a portable lock kit to secure your laptop to a chair, table, etc. Just Google: portable lock kit for laptop	You should consider a portable lock kit to secure your laptop to a chair, table, etc. Just Google: portable lock kit for laptop	You should consider a portable lock kit to secure your laptop to a chair, table, etc. Just Google: portable lock kit for laptop	
Software (FREE to ECU Students)	Microsoft Office (FREE to ECU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to ECU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to ECU students!)	Recommended: Malwarebytes Anti- Malware & Antivirus Software
Expansion Cables	USB-C to ethernet; USB-C to USB Adapter; USB-C to USBA	USB-C to ethernet; USB-C to USB Adapter; USB-C to USBA	USB-C to ethernet; USB-C to USB Adapter; USB-C to USBA	Macs come with USB-c and you will need a couple adaptors to make use of external keyboards and mice or other accessories
Other considerations you may want to consider	Webcam, Microphone, optical drive, external hard drive for backups; USB 2.0 or 3.0	Webcam, Microphone, optical drive, and external hard drive for backups; USB 2.0 or 3.0	Webcam, Microphone, optical drive, external hard drive for backups; USB 2.0 or 3.0	