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 11th generation CPU or AMD Ryzen processor	Intel Core i7 12th generation CPU or AMD Ryzen processor (six core and above)	Intel Core i7 12th generation CPU or AMD Ryzen processor (six core and above)	The Windows 10 or 11 operating system and applications are written for it will require advanced processors to be used effectively. A higher processor speed will allow your computer to do more at once and run faster.
RAM (also called memory)	16 GB DDR4 or more	16 GB DDR4 or more	32 GB DDR4 or more	Memory demands for Windows 10 and 11 will require at least 4 GB of memory just for the operating system. The more money you can apply toward this, the better.
SSD (Solid State Drive) OR HDD (Hard Disk Drive)	512 GB HDD or more	1TB SSD or more	2TB SSD or more PLUS 500GB HDD	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 SDD for your OS and to run normal daily work, the faster your PC will be.

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 64-bit	Windows 11 64- bit Pro	Windows 11 Pro 64-bit 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	
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 EKU Students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to EKU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to EKU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to EKU students!)	Recommended: Malwarebytes Anti- Malware & Antivirus Software
Accessories	USB Thumb Drive External optical drive	USB Thumb Drive External optical drive	USB Thumb Drive External optical drive	
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 M1 Max Chip	Apple M2 or M2 pro chip	A higher processor speed will allow your computer to do more at once and run faster.
RAM (also called memory)	8GB DDR4 or more	8GB DDR4 or more	16-32GB DDR4 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	4TB	SSD is faster!
Screen Resolution	1280x768 or greater	1280x768 or greater	1280x768 or greater	
Networking	Built-in LAN Gigabit (Ethernet) for all systems; wireless 802.11b/g/n); Bluetooth 5.0	Built-in LAN Gigabit (Ethernet) for all systems; wireless 802.11b/g/n) ; Bluetooth 5.0	Built-in LAN Gigabit (Ethernet) for all systems; wireless 802.11b/g/n) ; Bluetooth 5.0	
Operating System	Big Sur or better (please note that within 2-3 years this will be out-of-date)	Monterey or Ventura (or the newest one)	Ventura (or the newest one)	Should always keep OS and apps up-to-date
Graphics Card	Full HD	Apple integrated graphics (any)	Apple integrated graphics; preferably QHD or above	

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.	
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 EKU Students)	Microsoft Office (FREE to EKU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to EKU students!)	Microsoft Office (FREE to EKU students!)	Recommended: Malwarebytes Anti- Malware & Antivirus Software
Expansion Cables	USB-C to Lightning; USB-C to USB Adapter; USB-C to USB-A	USB-C to Lightning; USB-C to USB Adapter; USB-C to USB-A	USB-C to Lightning; USB-C to USB Adapter; USB-C to USB-A	
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	