HSU Student Computer Recommendations

Operating system

Windows 10 (Professional, Education, Enterprise, or Home)

Mac OS X 10.12 or newer

Processor (CPU)

Laptop: Intel Core i5 / AMD A6 processor or better.

Desktop: Intel Core i5 / AMD A8 or better.

Monitor and video card

Laptop:LCD 1280x800 resolution or higher.

Desktop:19" or greater monitor, dual-monitor capable video card.

If doing a lot of 3D rendering or other graphic processing intensive tasks, dedicated video memory is recommended.

Hard drive

256 gigabytes or larger for solid state drives.

Memory (RAM)

8 gigabytes or more for typical use.

16 gigabytes or more for Adobe Creative Suite applications and other graphic and video intensive applications.

Removable storage

- External hard drive which meets or exceeds your hard drive capacity (for backups).
- USB flash drive (requires USB port).
- DVD recordable drive (optional).

Software

- **Required:** Antivirus Software. Windows Defender is sufficient for Windows 10 computers.
- **Recommended:**
  - Office 2016 is **available for free** for both Mac and PC as part of HSU's Office 365 service. **There is no need to purchase Office.**

    1. Go to office.com and click on "Sign in" at the upper right-hand corner.
    2. Under the E-mail or phone field, type in your **username** followed by @hsutx.edu (i.e. jsmith@hsutx.edu). **Do not use your e-mail address.**
    3. In the password field, type in your HSU password.
    4. Click the "Install Office" button.
    5. Choose "Office365 apps"

6. Follow the normal download procedures for the browser being used.
    - o Tool to read PDFs, such as Adobe Reader.

Discounted Software

ScholarBuys has a wide selection of discounted software available for current students, faculty, and staff. Windows 10 is also free for current students via https://scholarbuys.onthehub.com/

Networking

If living off campus, a broadband Internet connection speed of **10Mbps** or greater is preferred.

If living on campus, Internet is provided by Apogee and all minimum speed requirements are maintained as part of our contract. Typically, connecting to Apogee's service requires either an ethernet card for wired access or a wireless card that supports the 5GHz band. (Note: if your wireless card only supports the 2.4GHz band, then make sure it is 802.11g or 802.11gn. Most wireless cards manufactured within the last 5-7 years work just fine.)

Multimedia

Multimedia capable (sound, mic, webcam).

Other recommendations

- Web applications occasionally do not work well with all browsers. Individuals are encouraged to install at least one alternative browser (either Chrome or FireFox) in addition to the default browsers provided with the operating system.

- Netbooks and tablet computing devices (including Chromebooks) do not have the computing power of a normal laptop or desktop computer, for this reason they are **not recommended** for use as a primary computer at HSU.

- Purchase hardware with USB ports and audio jacks that are easily accessible.

- Use a backup program like Windows Backup or Mac OS Time Machine with an external hard drive to ensure file recovery in the event of a system malfunction.

- Purchase a surge protector or uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

- Add an extended warranty to cover the length of your academic use of the computer. Check with your homeowner's or renter's insurance to see if your computer is covered for damages or theft and get additional coverage if needed.

- Consider adding security hardware, such as a security cable, or software, such as LoJack for laptops.

- When purchasing a computer, make sure it includes copies of all media disks (operating system, drivers, and applications) and bring copies of these disks with you to campus (including product keys) in case a reformat or reinstall becomes necessary. Some computers have a restore partition built into the computer that contains this software as well.

- Double-check price quotes as sometimes prices don't include a keyboard, mouse, monitor, or the recommended operating system.

- Printers are usually sold separately. Inkjet and laser printers provide high-quality printing. Before you buy, compare prices, features, and cartridge-replacement costs. Note: HSU provides printers in the lobby of each Residence Hall as well as in the library and computer labs.

- Ensure you have everything needed to connect and use your systems, including power cables, USB cables, and Ethernet cables.