

Laptop Computer Purchasing Guidelines 2010 - 2011

The Law Library IT staff has prepared the following hardware and software specs as a baseline for guiding your purchase of a laptop computer for use in law school. These are not requirements, but recommendations based on our experience with law student computing issues and needs.

Please note that Microsoft Office and Microsoft operating systems upgrades are available to all UC students from the UC Bookstore at a nominal cost. For more information, visit the University of Cincinnati Information Technology (UCit) website at <http://www.uc.edu/ucit/mscontract/microsoft.html>.

The exam software that is used by the College of Law will work on Windows (XP, Vista and Windows 7) and Macintosh (running at least MAC OS X 10.5 or better) computers. It will not run on Linux or under any virtual computer emulator. After the Spring 2011 exams, the Windows XP version of the exam software will no longer be supported.

Laptop Specs

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| • Type/Brand ¹ | Major vendors, e.g., Dell, Lenovo, Toshiba, HP, Apple. |
| • Hard Drive | 80 GB or larger. |
| • Memory | 2 GB (4 GB preferred). |
| • Processor | Intel Core 2 Duo 2.1 GHz or faster (or equivalent AMD dual core processor) |
| • Optical Drive | CD-RW/DVD or DVD +/-RW. |
| • Video RAM | For Windows computers: Integrated graphics (uses system memory) for basic Vista, Windows 7 or XP functions; 128MB-256MB dedicated graphics memory for more sophisticated functionality. |
| • Monitor | 14.1 in. |
| • Operating System | Windows XP Professional (Service Pack 3), Vista Business or Ultimate, Windows 7 Home Premium. ² Mac OS X 10.5 or better. |
| • Wireless Network Card | 802.11g or n (integrated or external) with 128 bit encryption; must support WPA2 and enterprise AES wireless security. For more information, go to: http://www.uc.edu/ucit/access/wireless_data_communications.html . |
| • Warranty | 3 years. ³ |

Questions? Contact John Hopkins, Associate Director for Information Technology: john.hopkins@uc.edu or (513) 556-0153.

¹ The College of Law is primarily a PC environment, but most newer Apple laptops running Mac OS X 10.5 or better will work with the UC Law network, networked resources, and exam software.

² Windows XP Professional, Vista Business and Ultimate and Window 7 Home Premium provide easier access to network storage and printers. Lower level versions of Windows will work on the network, they're just not as convenient to use.

³ Programs such as Dell's CompleteCare Accidental Damage Service may be worth the extra investment, as they will replace computer parts damaged by spills, drops, power surges or breakage.