

To: CS Department

From: Leo Irakliotis

Subject: DRAFT BYOD policy proposal

Date: DRAFT VERSION OF November 6, 2025

During our Spring 2025 faculty retreat, I was assigned the task of drafting a *Bring Your Own Device* (BYOD) policy for CS students. This draft policy outlines the system requirements. The earliest we can implement the policy is beginning in the academic year 2026-27, i.e, with the class of 2031.

The proposed policy is based on similar BYOD policy that I drafted in 2001 for the University of Chicago's Master of Computer Science program, as well as on current BYOD policies from Clemson University, Florida Institute of Technology, and Northern Illinois University.

Timeline

April 2025 Consensus for BYOD policy at curriculum retreat.

May 2025 Draft policy posted, RFC.

November 2025 Policy review at faculty meeting; changelog:

- Inclusion of Chromebooks;
- Expansion of policy to all CS majors and minors, graduate and undergraduate;
- Language for casual enrollees in COMP 170 etc. In addition to the language added here, LOCUS/catalog descriptions for the following courses should mention the BYOD explicitly: COMP 125; COMP 141; COMP 150; COMP 170; COMP 264; COMP 271; COMP 272; COMP 363.
- Removal of specific OS versions, replaced with general language about current versions of major OSs;
- Addition of software requirements with clarification that MSOffice can run natively or in-browser;
- Modification of device age requirement from 6 years to 4 years, to align with requirement that system must be serviceable for the duration of studies (typically 4 years for undergraduates).

Next Steps

- Final approval from the department (at 12/10/25 faculty retreat).
- Share with ITS for feedback.
- Share with administration for approval.

1 Bring Your Own Device

Beginning with academic year 2027-28, undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in any major or minor offered by the Department of Computer Science are required to own and use a computer device that meets the specifications of this policy.

If you enroll in a Computer Science course, without being a CS major or minor, you are strongly encouraged to comply with this policy. The following courses are build around the assumption that every student in the classroom has a qualified device as defined in this policy: COMP 125, COMP 141, COMP 150, COMP 170, COMP 264, COMP 271, COMP 272, and COMP 363.

2 Qualified Devices

A *qualified device* is a system that meets the expectations of this policy, by featuring the following characteristics.

Minimum Requirements

Screen. The device's screen must have at least a 10-inch diagonal, a 16:9 aspect ratio (or comparable aspect ratio), and at least 1204×768 pixels resolution.

Keyboard. The device must have a separate physical keyboard.

Memory. At least 16 GB of memory.

Storage. At least 128 GB of storage.

Networking. WiFi capable, compatible with IEEE 802.11ac (also known as WiFi-5) or higher.

Battery life. A fully charged system should be able to run for at least 6-7 hours.

Tracking. The device must be trackable so that it can be located if forgotten/stolen.

No older than 4 years.

Portable. The system must be light enough to be carried around campus comfortably and not require excessive space on a classroom desk.

Operating system. A qualified device must be capable of running the current version of Microsoft Windows, MacOS, or a major Linux distribution, specifically Ubuntu or Kali.

Software. The system must be capable of running the current version of the following applications: any major browser (Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Apple Safari). It must also support native or in-browser versions of Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Office (at least Outlook, Word and Powerpoint), and Adobe Acrobat. Furthermore, the system must be capable of supporting these applications and their future updates for the duration of your studies at LUC, which means that the system cannot be more than 3-4 years old at the time you join Loyola University Chicago.

Access to Command Line Interface. The system must have a feature that allows direct access to the command line interface. For example, the Terminal application in MacOS, Windows, and Linux machines.

Optional Requirements

Expandable. The system should be able to connect to various peripherals such as a larger screens (if you have one in your residence), printers, etc.

Protection. The device must be covered by a protection policy (an insurance policy to cover serious repairs and provide replacement in case of major damage).

3 Terms of use

1. Your system must be password protected.
2. Certain courses in your major will be marked as “device required in classroom”. For those courses you are expected to arrive to the classroom with your device. The battery charge in the device should be sufficient to last for the duration of the class meeting.

4 Recommended systems and vendors

Disclaimer: The recommendations provided by the Department of Computer Science regarding computer system vendors and warranty options are offered in good faith and are intended to assist students in selecting equipment that meets the technical needs of our curriculum. These suggestions are based on our assessment of current hardware compatibility, performance, and reliability standards relevant to our coursework and instructional tools. The Department of Computer Science has no financial or other pecuniary interest in any of the vendors, manufacturers, or service providers mentioned. We do not receive compensation, discounts, or other benefits in exchange for these recommendations. Students are under no obligation to purchase from any particular vendor or select a specific product or service. All purchasing decisions should be made based on individual needs, preferences, and circumstances, as long as the device meets the minimum specifications stated earlier. The department cannot guarantee the performance, pricing, or service quality of any third-party provider and assumes no liability for equipment malfunctions, warranty disputes, or service issues that may arise.

TBD: recommended configurations; recommendation for refurbished systems from New Egg, etc. This section must be revised **annually** and remain versioned in the document.

5 Absolutely not acceptable systems

Following is a list of systems and devices that do not meet the requirements.

1. E-ink devices (e.g., reMarkable)
2. Smart phones. Typically their screens are smaller than the required minimum size.
3. Desktop systems. They are not portable.
4. Older systems. Such computers may not be equipped to run the latest version of software needed for the classes.
5. Older operating systems: Windows 10 or lower, MacOS 13 or lower, **Linux demarkation version**.

66 **Frequently Asked Questions**

67 **Is the purchase of a qualified device covered by financial aid?**

68 Yes.

69 **Are tablets like iPad or Microsoft Surface allowed?**

70 Yes, as long as they meet the minimum requirements in this policy and especially the screen size,
71 keyboard, and device age specifications.

72 **Are Chromebooks allowed?**

73 Yes as long as they meet the minimum requirements in this policy and especially the memory, storage,
74 screen size, and device age specifications.

75 **Q** Answer.

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