

General Recommendations

Is a laptop or a desktop computer better?

Either a laptop (also called a notebook or portable computer) or a desktop computer will fulfill your computing needs. Each type has advantages and disadvantages that should be considered when choosing a computer. While the portability of laptops can be very attractive, they can be awkward to manage and are far more vulnerable to theft. Furthermore, you will get much more performance for your money with a desktop computer.

How fast of a processor do I need?

The names and speed of computer processors change frequently in today's marketplace. The high level of competition has resulted in the lowest prices in years. While any processor you purchase will be fast enough to meet the demands of today's software, consider potential future needs before you make a purchase. It may be worth your money to buy a faster processor, even if it is slightly more expensive.

What kind of processor should I buy?

Computers based on Intel's Pentium series and Celeron processors, AMD's Athlon, Duron, and Thunderbird processors are more common at the University than computers based on the Apple or other platforms. Some departments, however, may demand use of a particular platform.

How much RAM do I need?

RAM refers to the memory used for temporary storage during computer processing. Generally speaking, the more RAM you have, the better off you are. Given that the price of RAM is lower today than it has ever been, it is suggested that you purchase a computer with at least 256MB of RAM.

What kind of hard drive should I get?

There are several kinds of hard drives. The most common type is IDE or enhanced IDE. In the vast majority of situations, an IDE hard drive will fulfill your needs.

How big of a hard drive should I get?

Given the level of technology today, almost any size hard drive will provide enough space for your needs. Note that at the lower end of the price spectrum, all hard drives will cost nearly the same amount, regardless of size. 40GB hard drives are common.

Do I need a CD-ROM drive or a DVD drive?

These devices are commonly called "removable media." You will need either a DVD drive or a CD-ROM drive, as virtually all software today is sold in CD-ROM format. A DVD drive may not be worth the additional cost unless you want to play DVDs on your computer.

What about a CD Burner?

A CD-R/W (Recorder/Writeable) drive allows you to "burn" your own CDs; these CDs can be backups of data, collections of documents and photos, or even custom-mixed music CDs.

Do I need any special hardware to connect to the Internet from a dorm room?

Students living on campus can connect their computer to the Internet via a high-speed connection provided in their room. This connection requires an Ethernet card (also called a Network Interface Card or NIC) in the student's computer and a Category-5 (Cat-5) cable. Both Ethernet cards and Cat-5 cable are relatively inexpensive and can be purchased at a wide variety of retailers.

Do I need any special hardware to connect to the Internet from off-campus?

Students living off-campus will have to make their own arrangements for Internet service through a third-party Internet Service Provider (ISP). Traditional dialup access (using a phone modem) as well as high-speed connections (via DSL or cable modem) are available in the Athens area. The hardware needed will depend on the type of service. Please refer to the specific service you are interested in for details.

Please note that the University does not endorse any third-party ISPs, or any long-term Internet Service Provider agreements (such as those commonly offered in conjunction with rebates on complete computer systems).

What kind of software do I need?

A recent version of one of the common operating systems (e.g., Windows 2000 or XP; Mac OS 9 or OS-X) is highly recommended.

A recent version of an Internet browser is required for accessing many UGA services. The most common browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape.

Productivity software such as one of the full-feature office suites (Microsoft Office, Corel Office, and others) is also strongly suggested. Additional software may be useful depending on what students are studying, and use of particular software may be required by some departments.

Anti-virus software (updated with the latest virus definitions) is also very good to have. In fact, the University of Georgia has licensed an anti-virus program for use by all University faculty, staff, and students. It is available for download from:

<http://www.virus.uga.edu/avpc-mac.html>

Important Note:

Although the University of Georgia strongly recommends that students have access to a computer, to the Internet, and to appropriate software:

Ownership of a computer is NOT A REQUIREMENT for enrollment at the University of Georgia.

Given that computing demands can vary widely from discipline to discipline, students are strongly encouraged to ask whether their school or department has made any specific recommendations.

A complete list of the colleges, schools, and departments at the University of Georgia is available from the UGA Homepage:

<http://www.uga.edu>

For students who are undecided on their major, we have provided the information in this brochure as a general guideline for purchasing a computer. None of the information contained on these pages should be construed as an endorsement of any product.

The University of Georgia Bookstore (1-877-257-8673 / 542-3171) can advise students on computers in both PC and Mac platforms that are equipped for use at the University and that are available with special pricing by ordering directly from the manufacturer's web site.

Warranty service is available on campus through the University's Electronics Design and Maintenance (EDM) Shop. The UGA Internet Kit, which includes web browsers and selected plug-ins, is available from Enterprise Information Technology Services for both Windows and Mac platforms.

The University does not endorse long-term Internet Service Provider agreements or optional long-term warranty agreements.

Enterprise Information Technology Services

<http://www.eits.uga.edu>

EITS operates and supports the campus-wide computing and networking facilities at the University of Georgia and provides assistance to UGA students, faculty, and staff.



EITS Student Technology Support

Phone: 542-3333

<http://www.uga.edu/resnet>

Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Note: Due to traffic and parking restrictions, STS is not open on Saturdays of home football games.

Walk-In Assistance

Computer Services Annex

Intersection of East Campus Road and Cedar

Street: building #1130 on the UGA Campus Map

Monday - Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Telephone Assistance

542-3333



The University of Georgia

Recommendations for Student Computers

Your guide to
selecting a computer
for a UGA student



Enterprise Information Technology Services

Computer Services Annex

(Intersection of East Campus Road and Cedar
Street: Building #1130 on the Campus Map)

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