

UMSI Recommended Student Laptop Specifications



LAPTOP

Operating system	macOS Catalina or newer
<i>Either a Mac or PC is fine; students need just one operating system, not both</i>	Windows 10 (64-bit) Professional or Education (Note: U-M Students can download Windows 10 Education Edition free from the U-M Tech Shop)
Processor*	Intel Core i5 (minimum) Intel Core i7 or better (recommended)
Screen	13" or larger
Memory	8 GB (minimum) 16 GB or more (recommended)
Storage	256 GB SSD (minimum) 512 GB SSD (recommended)
Ethernet	Optional—10/100/1000 (Gigabit) or adapter . If you're experiencing an unstable WiFi connection, you may experience a better internet connection by connecting your laptop directly to your modem using an ethernet cable.
Wireless	802.11 ac
Camera/webcam	720p (1280 x 720) at 30 fps (minimum). Front-facing cameras built-in to your laptop are often sufficient. Required for online/remote learning.

* Apple's latest laptop offerings come with their new M1 processor. For a vast majority of students, this is simply a new, faster, more power efficient processor. However, some students will find that the new processor will require them to adjust their work. Over the next year, we expect this adjustment to disappear. If your coursework will involve programming and using precompiled libraries, we are not sure you will be able to compile those libraries for the M1 (ARM) processor, but it is possible you could do this work on another computer, or in emulation.

ADD ONS

External hard drive	Backing-up to an external drive or to a cloud-based solution is recommended
Extended warranty or multi-year service agreement	Recommended for the duration of your academic program or longer
Insurance for accidental damage or theft	Recommended for the duration of your academic program or longer
Mouse	Optional
Case or bag	Optional
Headset with microphone	Required for online/remote learning. A variety of options are available through the U-M Tech Shop , including inexpensive earbuds with a built-in microphone .
Anti-theft cable lock	Optional
Adapter(s)	(Optional) Adapter(s) for connecting to external displays (USB-C and HDMI are the most common). For MacBooks, consider an adapter hub such as the HyperDrive BAR USB-C Hub
External display	Recommended for online/remote learning

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Office 365	Available free to U-M Students
Adobe Creative Cloud	Available free to U-M Students
Antivirus software	See U-M ITS page on Antivirus for Personal Computers . Windows Defender is automatically built into Windows 10 and enabled by default. For personal Mac OS computers, U-M ITS recommends Sophos Antivirus for Mac Home Edition, which is free.