



Computing Sciences Division

Laptop Recommendations

This document is intended to provide a guideline for students to follow when purchasing a laptop to use for the Computing Sciences programs of study (Computer Science, Information Technology, and Cybersecurity).

Before deciding on a laptop, it is important to think about what you are going to be doing with the laptop. If you are planning to use the device solely for your classes, the below recommendations are adequate. If you are planning to use the device for more intensive purposes (such as gaming), you should consider doing some research and/or talking with a professional to determine what best suits your needs.

Before purchasing any laptop, do your own research (watch/read reviews)!

	Specs
Random Access Memory (RAM)	16 gigabytes or more
Drive Capacity NOTE: A solid-state drive (SSD) or M.2 drive is recommended	500 gigabytes or larger
Processor (CPU)	Intel Core i5 or better (better options could include Intel Core i7 or i9) or AMD Ryzen 5 or better (better options could include Ryzen 7 or Ryzen 9)
Graphics	Optional

Recommended laptop manufacturers include Dell, HP, MSI, ASUS, Acer, Lenovo, LG, and Samsung.

Chromebooks or MacBooks are not recommended. For compatibility, it is recommended you get a standard laptop running Windows operating system.

Important Notes:

ATU students received a free MS Office 365 subscription while enrolled at Arkansas Tech. For more information, please visit <https://ois.atu.edu/2014/10/free-microsoft-software-for-tech-students/>

You do not need to buy antivirus software; Windows has its own antivirus software.