

# Computer Requirements, Recommendation, Tips and Tricks

## Computer Requirements

The IT department does not recommend the purchase of Chromebooks. While Chromebooks are inexpensive they are also limited in their capabilities and functionality. To ensure that you have a computer that will fit all of your classwork needs, Chromebooks are not the best choice.

### Microsoft Windows laptop – Basic requirements

- 8GB or better memory
- 256 GB SSD hard drive
- Processor – i5 Intel or AMD processor
- Operating System – Windows 10 or Windows 11

The above specifications are a **baseline**. If you are in a major that requires high graphics or faster computer processing speeds moving up from these specs would be ideal.

Windows laptops can be purchased at any store, online or in-store. Laptops can also be purchased through our select vendors for a discount. While Franklin Pierce deals primarily with Dell these vendors do work with most computer manufacturers.

GHA – Tim Kersh [tkersh@gha-associates.com](mailto:tkersh@gha-associates.com)

Connection – Eric Sedlisky – [eric.sedlisky@connection.com](mailto:eric.sedlisky@connection.com)

Connection offers a [purchase portal](#) for FPU students/faculty/staff with recommendations for computer purchases for personal use. Click the purchase portal link, create an account and check it out.

Just mention Franklin Pierce University along with the specifications and price range and they will be happy to help you find what you need.

### Apple – Base Requirements

- 8GB or better memory
- 256 GB SSD hard drive
- Processor – M1 processor
- Operating System – Big Sur or higher

While you can buy Apple computers at most electronics retailers Apple does offer a student discount when you buy through them. Check out this link for their latest offerings

[https://www.apple.com/us-edu/store?afid=p238%7CsAcHTLMDD-dc\\_mtid\\_1870765e38482\\_pcrd\\_582934704232\\_pgrid\\_123899872019\\_pntwk\\_g\\_pchan](https://www.apple.com/us-edu/store?afid=p238%7CsAcHTLMDD-dc_mtid_1870765e38482_pcrd_582934704232_pgrid_123899872019_pntwk_g_pchan)

## Recommendations

- When purchasing a computer choose one that is going to fulfill your needs throughout college. If you are studying a field that requires substantial computation, static analysis or graphic design purchase a computer with more memory and a higher end processor.
- Do your research. While the IT department gives you generalities on what is required, they are basic requirements. Research the models available for the specifications we have given. Reviews are extremely helpful in guiding to an educated purchase of a quality choice. If reviews show problems with quality or service, look elsewhere for something comparable with a better track record. The vendor representative listed above can help you make an informed decision.
- Don't wait until the last minute to buy something. Supply chains have been unreliable. What is in stock today could be gone with no expected restock date. Give yourself plenty of time to receive your computer before move in day comes.
- Coming for STEP day? Bring your computer with you. That way you can get it connected to the wifi and be ahead of the game come move in day.

## What Not To Bring

- Do Not Bring Wireless Routers – adding a wireless router to the network can wreak havoc on the infrastructure.
- Do Not Bring Wireless Printers – Printers are available throughout campus. You do not need to have a printer by your bed. It takes up space and is unnecessary as we have printers throughout campus for you to use. Using PaperCut secures your print job on any our printers until you are at the printer accessing your queue. Queues are held for 12 hours.

