UW–Madison School of Nursing Laptop Policy

The School of Nursing faculty approved the laptop computer policy on January 11, 2013 effective for students admitted beginning fall 2013. Below is the policy and information on minimum recommended specifications for Windows and Apple laptop computers.

Policy:

Each student admitted to the UW-Madison School of Nursing programs (*undergraduate and graduate) will be expected to have access to a laptop computer with basic productivity software for their individual use during class. (*Undergraduate does not include BSN@Home students or pre-nursing (PRN) students.)

For computers that do not have a VGA or HDMI output port, students will be asked to bring a video adapter that allows for the laptop’s contents to be displayed on an external monitor or through a room projector.

Does this policy mean that students will be required to purchase laptops? Students will not be required to purchase laptop computers; they will be required to have a computer with standard productivity software available during class. Most UW-Madison students already own laptops. Those who do not, will be able to either purchase one, taking advantage of UW-Madison educational discount, or can lease one from the University on a per-semester-fee basis (https://it.wisc.edu/services/rentals/).

Specifications for Windows Laptops

Minimum Recommended

- Processor (CPU) - Intel i3 or similar
- Memory - 4 GB RAM
- Operating System - Windows 7 Home Premium.
- Hard Drive - 120 GB
- Network connectivity - Ethernet and wireless
- Peripheral connectivity - USB 2.0 or better
- Video – VGA or HDMI output or converter to VGA or HDMI

Windows Software Recommendations

- Productivity Suites - MS Office 2010 or later, LibreOffice, OpenOffice.org, or comparable software for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations
- Web Browsers - Latest versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Apple Safari
- Security software including Symantec AntiVirus, MalwareBytes, Windows Firewall (built-in)

Specifications for Apple Macintosh Laptops

Minimum Recommended Hardware

- Processor - Intel i3
- Memory - 4 GB
- Operating System - Mac OS X 10.10 (Yosemite)
- Hard Drive - 120 GB
- Network connectivity - Ethernet and wireless
- Peripheral connectivity - USB 2.0 or better
- VGA or HDMI output or converter to VGA or HDMI

OS X Software Recommendations

- Productivity Suites - MS Office 2013 or newer, Apple iWork, LibreOffice or comparable software for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations
- Web Browsers - Latest versions of Apple Safari, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox
- Security software including Symantec AntiVirus and Mac OS X’s built-in Firewall

Questions, comments or requests for additional information related to the policy may be directed to the School of Nursing Academic Technology team at sonat@son.wisc.edu or Karen Mittelstadt, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs (mittelstadt@wisc.edu).