

UC Davis School of Medicine Computer Requirements

1. Computer Ownership Policy
2. Recommended Configurations and Notes
3. Technical Support
4. Purchasing a Computer
5. Financial Aid for Computer Purchases

1. Computer Ownership Policy

All matriculating medical students are expected to own a **portable computer** that meets **minimum specifications**. The faculty established this policy in 2003 to meet the following educational objectives:

- Emphasize the critical role of information technology in medical education and medical practice.
- Participate in required, in-class computer-based learning activities such team-based learning, calibrated peer review, on-line testing, digital microscopy, and access to the electronic medical record.
- Enhance the learning experience of lectures, conferences, problem-based learning, and clinical activities by accessing web-based resources and tools for collaboration and communication.
- Access critical resources for learning and information management while based at affiliated clinical sites.

2A. Computer configurations for 2010-2011

Computer configurations for 2010-2011		
Platform	Windows PC	Apple
CPU	AMD Turion 64 X2 or Intel Core 2 Duo	Intel Core 2 Duo
RAM	4 GB	
Hard drive	250 GB	
Optical drive	For PCs, CD/DVD Burner (Dual Layer DVD+/-R Drive) For Apples, 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)	
Portable drive	USB portable drive is recommended	
Backup	Backing up your system is strongly recommended. See note #1 for more information on backup options.	
Sound	Vendor default configuration	
Graphic card	DirectX 10-compatible (minimum 128 MB of dedicated video memory)	Vendor Default
Display	See note #2 below for laptop screen size	
Network	Wired: 10/100 or 10/100/1000 Base-T wired Ethernet card Wireless: 802.11g/n wireless card See note #3 for information about Network Interface Cards (NIC)	
Printer	See note #4 below	
OS See note #5 below	Students buying new PCs should, at a minimum, buy Windows 7 Home Premium.	Mac OS X 10.6
Software	See note #6 below for information about purchasing software products and downloading free anti-virus software. Anti-virus software is required when using the campus network.	
Warranty	3-year parts and labor is highly recommended (an on-site repair warranty is recommended if funds permit.)	Apple Care (a 3-year warranty may be bought for a new system within one year of the purchase date.)

2B. Additional computing notes

The recommendations for Windows PC computers on this site meet the hardware requirements of Microsoft's newest operating system, Windows 7. If you have questions about Windows 7 or its compatibility with campus applications, see <http://iet.ucdavis.edu/microsoft/windows7/>.

a. Backing up files:

At a minimum, you should backup your important files to CD, DVD, or USB drive. To backup your entire system, you should consider purchasing an external backup drive. If you need to backup various large files, such as multimedia and music files, you should consider purchasing an external hard drive with up to a third more storage than your hard drive (e.g., roughly 200 GB for a 160 GB hard drive). If you're backing up smaller files, a few GB may suffice. For more information on computer backups, please visit the [UC Davis Security Site](#).

b. Display:

Laptop – Laptop displays should have a minimum resolution of 1024x768, but more importantly, the display should be comfortable to read and view. Laptop displays vary in size from about 12 inches up to 17 inches; however be aware that the larger the display, the more the computer weighs. We advise viewing the monitor or the monitor of a comparable model, before purchasing, to determine reading and viewing comfort. Additionally, consider your current and future computing needs when deciding between a standard or widescreen monitor.

c. Network interface card (NIC):

A network-ready computer has an installed Ethernet network interface card (NIC). Visually inspect your computer for the RJ-45 port that indicates an NIC. An RJ-45 jack looks similar to a regular telephone jack used by modems and telephones, but it is slightly wider. For best performance, the cable should be Category 5, 5e, 6, or better. The recommended length is about 15 feet. You can purchase a 10 Base-T or twisted pair network pair cable from the TechHUB. You will need a cable to connect and use the wired data ports in the classrooms and large lecture halls. Please note that wired connection speeds are at least twice the speed of wireless.

d. Wireless Interface Card

The education building has wireless access available in all areas. The wireless network supports a/b/g configurations. The wireless network "ucdhs-students" is available to you after providing your HS username and password. This wireless network has full access to UCDHS and library resources.

e. Printer:

In lieu of purchasing your own printer, you may use the printers located in the education building. While you may incur a [small cost](#) for the number of sheets you print in the computer, it may be less expensive for you to use the school's printers than purchasing a personal printer.

If you decide to purchase a personal printer, remember to consider the cost of replacement ink/toner and other supplies. We suggest choosing a LaserJet printer versus an Inkjet. While a LaserJet may cost more up front, it is more reliable and costs much less per page than the Inkjet.

f. Operating system (OS):

[Microsoft Windows 7 – Home Premium](#) – The recommendations for Windows PC computers on this site meet the hardware requirements of Microsoft's newest operating system, Microsoft Windows 7 – Home Premium.

[Macintosh OS X](#) – The recommendations for Apple computers on this site meet the hardware requirements of OS X 10.6.

g. Software:

UC Davis offers a variety of software available for download off the [Software License Coordination \(SLC\) Web site](#). The [TechHUB](#) offers productivity, creativity, and other software packages to students, staff and faculty at special academic pricing that may be substantially lower than commercial vendors.

3. Technical Support

The IT Express Computing Services Help Desk provides assistance with many topics, including software, campus Internet access, and activating and accessing your UC Davis email and computing accounts. Call for help at 530-754-HELP (4357).

The School of Medicine IT support unit provides onsite support for your laptops. They are located in room 2108 in the Medical Education Building. Depending on the severity of the issue, you may be required to leave your computer with the staff for repairs. Any software re-installs will require you to provide your own copy of the software.

4. Purchasing a Computer

Once you've made a decision about what kind of computer you want to buy, you get to decide where to buy and how to pay for it. We suggest bringing a copy of the [recommended computer configurations](#) to the store where you plan to purchase your system. A salesperson should be able to assist you in figuring out which system will be best for your needs. Don't forget to ask the vendor if they offer academic discounts.

How am I going to pay for a new computer?

As with any major purchase you are considering, there are numerous methods of payment. As a UC Davis student, you can pay with cash or credit card, or put a computer purchase on your university billing account at the [UC Davis Bookstore TechHUB](#).

Cash or a credit card

Your best bet is to go to the [TechHUB](#) on the UC Davis campus and buy your computer in person. You may also purchase a computer from the TechHUB via the phone at 530-752-2204, or go online to place your order.

UC Davis student account

If you've already registered as a UC Davis student, you may use your Registration Card (also known as your student identification card) to purchase a computer at the TechHUB. Once the Bookstore has verified your student status, they will charge your purchase and send the final amount to the Cashier's Office to be included in your quarterly fee statement.

5. Financial Aid for Computer Purchases

Enrolled students may document up to \$2,000 in computer expenses during the course of their program of study at the UC Davis School of Medicine.

Please refer to our [computer expense funding policy](#) for details on financial aid.

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/ome/finaid/0910-ComputerExpensePolicy.pdf>