

Laptop Computer Purchasing Guidelines 2011 - 2012

The Law Library IT staff has prepared the following hardware and software specs as a baseline for guiding your purchase of a laptop computer for use in law school. These are not requirements, but recommendations based on our experience with law student computing issues and needs.

Please note that Microsoft Office and Microsoft operating systems upgrades are available to all UC students from the UC Bookstore at a nominal cost. For more information, visit the University of Cincinnati Information Technology (UCit) website at <http://www.uc.edu/ucit/ware/software/microsoft.html>.

The exam software that is used by the College of Law will work on Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Macintosh (running at least MAC OS X 10.5 or better) computers. It will not run on Linux or under any virtual computer emulator.

Laptop Specs

- Type/Brand¹ Major vendors, e.g., Dell, Lenovo, Toshiba, HP, Apple.
- Hard Drive 120 GB or larger.
- Memory 4 GB (Windows 7 64-bit will support 8 GB).
- Processor Intel Core 2 Duo or Intel Core i5 processor, 2.5 GHz or faster
- Optical Drive DVD +/-RW.
- Monitor 14.1 in. (Monitor size is mainly a question of personal preference.)
- Operating System Windows Vista Business or Ultimate; Windows 7 Home Premium, Professional or Enterprise.
Mac OSX 10.5 or better.
- Wireless Network Card 802.11g or n with 128 bit encryption; **must support WPA2 and enterprise AES wireless security**. For more information, go to:
<http://www.uc.edu/ucit/internet/oncampus/wirelessdatacommunicationswpa2.html>
- Warranty 3 years.²

Questions? Contact John Hopkins, Associate Director for Information Technology: john.hopkins@uc.edu or (513) 556-0153.

¹ The College of Law is primarily a PC environment, but Apple laptops running Mac OS X 10.5 or better will work with the UC Law network, networked resources, and exam software.

² Programs such as Dell's CompleteCare Accidental Damage Service may be worth the extra investment for 3 year coverage, as they will replace computer parts damaged by spills, drops or breakage. As an alternative, you might look at insuring your computer through a company like Safeware (safeware.com) where you can have it covered for accidental damage, as well as theft and loss.