

Laptop Computer Purchasing Guidelines 2009 - 2010

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/mscontract/microsoft.html>.

The exam software that is used by the College of Law will work on either PCs or Macs.

Laptop Specs

- Type/Brand¹ Major vendors, e.g., Dell, Lenovo, Toshiba, HP, Apple.
- Hard Drive 80 GB or larger.
- Memory 2 GB (4 GB preferred).
- Processor Intel Core 2 Duo 2.1 GHz or faster.
- Optical Drive CD-RW/DVD or DVD +/-RW.
- Video RAM Integrated graphics (uses system memory) for basic Vista functions or XP; 128MB-256MB dedicated graphics memory for more complete Vista functionality.
- Monitor 14.1 in.
- Operating System Windows XP Professional (Service Pack 2 or 3) or Vista Business or Ultimate².
- Wireless Network Card 802.11g or n (integrated or external) with 128 bit encryption; **must support WPA2 and enterprise AES wireless security**. For more information, go to: http://www.uc.edu/ucit/access/wireless_data_communications.html
- Warranty 3 years³

Questions? Contact John Hopkins, Associate Director for Information Technology:
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¹ The College of Law is primarily a PC environment, but most newer Apple laptops running Mac OS X 10.4 or better will work with the UC Law network, networked resources, and exam software.

² Windows XP Professional, Vista Business and Ultimate provide easier access to network storage and printers. Windows XP Home and Vista Home Basic and Home Premium will work on the network, they're just not as convenient to use.

³ Programs such as Dell's CompleteCare Accidental Damage Service may be worth the extra investment, as they will replace computer parts damaged by spills, drops, power surges or breakage.