LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

Law School Computing Services
User Memo

Suggested Computer Specifications for Computer Purchases
No. 56   6/25/19

While a computer is an exceptionally useful instrument for law students to own and we do recommend that you consider having one, the Law School does not require that students purchase a computer. Most choices you will make in purchasing a new computer will be the result of personal preference or budget. The law school has Windows PCs in the Law School Computer Center. Computer Center Advisors provide support for both Macintosh and Windows PCs in the Computer Center. However, the Law School does not provide home support for any personal student machine.

If you are considering purchasing a new computer for the Academic Year, we **suggest** the following minimum specifications.
Recommendations:
CPU Speed: For your course work here, CPU speed is a personal preference.
Memory: 1 GB- 4GB or more
Hard Drive: 100GB or more
Additional Optional Devices: CD-R/W, or DVD-R/W drive, USB Memory key
Warranties: Important, but a personal preference. On-site repair is usually worth the investment.
Desktop Monitor size: 17" monitor or larger
Ethernet jack: A built-in ethernet jack or an add-in card is strongly advised. (If you want DSL or cable modem internet access at home)
Additional Ports: at least one, preferably more USB ports

Special Considerations for a Laptop:
If you want to use the Internet in areas of the Law School and the Law Library your laptop will need to have WiFi wireless capabilities to use the wireless network on campus. Wired ethernet jacks are available in limited locations on campus. Most new laptops include both wired and WiFi wireless options. No specific brand of wired or WiFi card is required, all brands are compatible. WiFi wireless capabilities are available on the Water Tower Campus and at the Law School.

Also, the following may be important to think about when choosing a laptop model:
-keyboard size - make sure it is comfortable for you
-monitor size
-battery life
-overall weight
-cost

Considerations for Computer Based Exams
Computer based exams are an option for some courses. Students are not required to use this method, but if you wish to take a computer based exam there are some specific requirements. Students must own or have access to a laptop that is running either Mac OSX or a PC running Windows. The laptop must have wireless ethernet (WiFi) installed and working.

Please note that most vendors sell machines which have additional or better features than those listed above. Remember that the above are suggested minimum requirements for new machines. Keep in mind how long you intend to use the machine and what other uses the machine will have besides law school use when making your decision.