



Laptop Buying Suggestions



Laptop vs Desktop vs Tablet/Chromebook

Laptops are portable, desktops aren't; we highly recommend a laptop for ease of studying, taking it to class, and portability. Right now, tablets and Chromebooks are not powerful and capable enough to use as your only device.

Apple vs. HP vs. Dell vs. Acer, etc.

Whichever platform you prefer is a personal choice, both Mac and Windows hardware is sufficient for the programs that students need to operate. Students should choose whichever platform they are most comfortable with, but we encourage you to make an informed selection based on your ultimate career goals. When buying a PC be aware that big name brands are going to be easier to get parts for and easier to fix but will usually cost a little more.

A couple things to note about Apple: the same specs on an Apple can cost 2-3x as much as a PC, Apple no longer puts all common ports on their computers (this means you need to buy adaptors), and typically PC's offer more features and are updated more frequently.

Solid State Drive (SSD)

We suggest a solid state drive over a regular hard drive when buying a new computer. SSD's will be faster and less likely to break; purchasing the more expensive solid state drive will pay off in the long run. A SSD is solid inside with no moving parts and a regular hard drive has many small moving parts that are likely to fail after a few years of use.

What if I have more questions?

Feel free to contact our Help Desk and ask questions, we'd be happy to share with you what we know and offer some advice.

Contact The Technology Help Desk

Swenson 2100

Phone: 1-715-394-8300

Email: helpdesk@uwsuper.edu

Website: www.uwsuper.edu/technology

How do I pick my computer from all the different models they sell?

When buying a laptop look at how they're advertising it, if it's being advertised as an entertainment PC then that is what they focused on while making the computer. We recommend looking for a computer that is advertised for business; this means it's going to be higher quality and the minimal differences for entertainment will hardly be noticeable unless you are gaming on your computer.

Where should I purchase my computer?

You can purchase a laptop directly from Dell, HP, or Apple and get an educational discount with your @uwsuper.edu email address, however, you will most likely find them cheaper by going to Amazon, Target, Best Buy, Walmart, or any other big box store that sells computers (sometimes these retailers offer educational discounts too, so make sure to ask). We recommend shopping around to find the best deal. Need to find one online? Search "intel core i5, 8gb ram, 256gb SSD laptop."

Recommended Specs:

- Hard Drive: 256gb, Solid State Drive recommended
- Ram: 8gb
- Processor: Intel Core i5 (or equivalent)
- Operating System: Windows 10 or newest Apple OS
- Warranty: 3+ year warranty with accidental damage protection

Do I need a surge protector?

If there is a power surge, lightning strike, or outage it can damage your computer and the many small components inside; this can be avoided by buying a proper surge protector rated to protect computer equipment. A \$20 purchase can protect your expensive electronic devices like computers, TVs, and tablets.

