

MEDILL

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

May 1, 2011 – Undergraduate hardware and software information

Minimum recommended laptop hardware specifications:

Windows

- Windows 7 Professional 64-bit OS
- 14" wide aspect ratio high-definition LCD or larger
- Intel Core i7 Processor
- 500 GB HD, SATA, 7200 RPM
- 8 GB of RAM
- Integrated wireless card, 802.11a/g/n
- 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
- Video card with at least 512 MB of dedicated RAM
- DVD+/- RW optical drive
- At least 3 USB ports

Mac

- Operating System: Mac OS X (10.6 – Snow Leopard)
- 15" MacBook Pro with upgraded high-resolution display
- Intel Core i7 Processor
- 500 GB HD, SATA, 7200 RPM
- 8 GB of RAM
- Airport Extreme Wi-Fi card
- 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
- Video card with at least 512 MB of dedicated RAM*
- SuperDrive 8x

You are responsible for your computer repair, so please make arrangements for this prior to arriving on campus. We recommend you purchase a 3 year, next business day, on-site warranty, with complete care in case of accidental damage protection. Your parents may also want to consider adding your laptop to their homeowner's insurance policy.

Medill doesn't recommend a specific laptop. Please shop around for the best deal on a laptop that meets the minimum required laptop hardware specifications listed above and your individual preferences. As a suggestion, the Dell Latitude E6520 laptop <http://www.dell.com/medill> meets the Windows specifications as does the MacBook Pro at <http://www.norris.northwestern.edu/services/apple-campus-store/>.

Minimum required software and versions for Windows

1. Adobe Creative Suite 5.0 (or newer) Master Collection:
<http://northwestern.onthehub.com/>
2. Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010 Suite (Student Select)
<http://northwestern.onthehub.com/>
3. Symantec Endpoint Protection (Anti-virus software):
<http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/sav/win/index.html>. Note: Before installing the NU Symantec Anti-Virus client, be sure to uninstall any existing anti-virus application(s) you may have on your computer.
4. FileZilla: FTP client: <http://filezilla-project.org/>
5. Cisco Virtual Private Networking (VPN) Client:
<http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/vpn/>
6. VLC Media player – free download from VLC: <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

Minimum required software and versions for Mac

1. Adobe Creative Suite 5.0 Master Collection: <http://northwestern.onthehub.com/>
2. Microsoft Office 2011 for Mac (English) (Student Select)
<http://northwestern.onthehub.com/>
3. Symantec Anti-virus software:
<http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/sav/mac/index.html>. Note: Before installing the NU Symantec Anti-Virus client, be sure to uninstall any existing anti-virus application(s) you may have on your computer.
4. FileZilla: FTP client: <http://filezilla-project.org/>
5. Cisco Virtual Private Networking (VPN) Client:
<http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/vpn/>
6. VLC Media player – free download from VLC: <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>
7. Mozilla Firefox, current version. Free download available at: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/>

If you have questions about which laptop or software to purchase or whether your current laptop meets the minimum required laptop hardware specifications, please contact:

Tim Lange
Manager, User Support
847-491-5828
timlange@northwestern.edu

Greg Schrader
Director, Information Technology
847-467-3153
g-schrader@northwestern.edu

Recommended Digital Audio Recorder

An audio recorder with a USB interface or removable memory card is required. We recommend the Zoom H1 Handy Portable Digital Recorder with the accessories bundle and headphone (around \$125 if the recorder and accessories are purchased together) <http://www.amazon.com/> Even if you choose not to purchase the accessories bundle, the H1 comes with a 2GB MicroSD card for recording your audio.

Recommended Digital Video Camera

A digital video camera with a built-in jack for an external microphone is required for your time at Medill. We recommend the **Kodak Zi8** or **Playtouch** digital video camera (around \$200). If you wish to purchase or bring a different camera, please contact us for advice before moving forward.

In order to record usable video, you also need a tripod and a lavalier microphone. We recommend the **Slik U8000 tripod** (around \$40) and the **Audio Technica ATR-3350** lavalier microphone (around \$25). <http://www.amazon.com/>

Recommended Digital Still Image Camera

We recommend a reasonably priced (\$200 or less) digital still image camera.

If you have questions about which audio recorder, video or still image camera to purchase, please contact:

Jonathan Love
Teaching Technologies Specialist
847-467-6369
j-love@northwestern.edu

Ryan Dietz
Teaching Technologies Specialist
847-467-0580
dietz@northwestern.edu

Recommended Optional Accessories:

- 6' Ethernet cable
- 4GB Flash Drive or larger
- Inexpensive pair of headphones
- External USB hard-drive 500 GB or larger for backing up your files and archiving
- Camera bag to organize your camcorder and accessories
- Appropriate recording medium for your digital video camera
- Appropriate cables to connect your digital video camera to your computer

Important Notes:

Technology Upgrades: These recommendations regarding laptops, software, cameras, and audio recorders are made as of the date of this letter. The manufacturers of these items update, discontinue and modify their products regularly so we cannot guarantee these items will be available when you are ready to place your order. Please refer to the Medill IT Web site for our most current recommendations <http://www.medill.northwestern.edu/it/techspecs.aspx> and please shop around to find the best possible price.

Purchase Timeline: Please purchase your laptop by August 1, 2011 to allow time for delivery and for you to familiarize yourself with the laptop and software before you arrive on campus. We will host a "Computing at Medill" orientation for all freshman and transfer students on Monday, September 19, 2011 as part of the Wildcat Welcome schedule. This workshop will help you update your computer, install the software you are going to need, connect to the wireless network, connect to the Medill printers and connect to the shared Medill network resources. This will ensure that when classes begin on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, all software is installed and you are ready to go.