

August 10, 2011

Correction: Compressor 4 instead of Composer 4.

July 22, 2011

Fall 2011, MSJ – Hardware and Software Information

Our mission is to ensure that you are prepared to find and report news and deliver it to your audiences when, where and how they want to get it – in newspapers, magazines, on television and online, as well as on video iPods, iPads, cell phones and any other medium that comes along. These essential skills will serve you well whatever you do in journalism or related communications fields once you graduate from Medill.

For you to thrive in the rapidly developing digital future, you'll need to bring some special tools to Medill:

- a laptop computer loaded with certain specified hardware and software;
- a digital audio recorder;
- a memory card-based digital video camera with an external microphone jack; and
- a digital still camera.

Medill's program is fast-paced and demanding. Multi-media training begins immediately at the time you enroll. You MUST have your equipment as of the first day of class, or you risk falling behind in your work.

Minimum recommended laptop hardware specifications:

Windows

- Windows 7 Professional 64-bit OS
- 14" wide aspect ratio LCD or larger, with a screen resolution of 1280 x 900 or better.
- 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 or later Snow Leopard or Lion)
- 15" Display MacBook Pro with with a screen resolution of 1280 x 900 or better.
- 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. You may also want to consider adding your laptop to a homeowner's insurance policy.

Medill doesn't specify a PC or Mac; more than half of our students come equipped with the latter. Students who think they will focus on videography/broadcast and/or study documentary are advised to bring a Mac capable of running Final Cut Pro X and **Composer 4**. 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 (or newer) **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/>

Minimum required software and versions for Mac (Videography/broadcast/documentary)

1. Adobe Creative Suite 5.0 (or newer) **Design Premium**: <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/>
8. Final Cut Pro X and Compressor 4: [Mac App Store](#).

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

Brett Keller
User Support Specialist
847- 491-2285
blkeller@northwestern.edu

Required Digital Audio Recorder

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.

Required 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

Ryan Dietz

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

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

Optional, recommended 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


Note: 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.

Finally, please purchase the required hardware and software at least 30 days before classes start to make sure you are ready for your first class. Multi-media training begins immediately and students who arrive without their equipment risk falling behind. All software should be installed before your first class.

We hope you are as excited about Medill and the future as we are. We look forward to welcoming you. If you questions about the cost of the required equipment, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Troutman
Associate Dean
Administration and Information Technology
Medill School
Northwestern University