

Below you will find the MINIMUM and RECOMMENDED laptop specifications for laptop computing at The College of New Jersey. These specifications should be used as guidance when making decisions on bringing a laptop\* to TCNJ.

MINIMUM specifications are for those who prefer to bring their existing laptop to TCNJ.

RECOMMENDED specifications are for those who are choosing to purchase a new laptop and need guidance on which specifications to go with. As a rule of thumb, if you are buying a new laptop, most, if not all, specifications will be fine. However, these guidelines will provide you with a good starting point.

**\*A note on Chromebooks: Chromebooks are best suited for internet browsing and basic document creation and do not have the processing power to run certain programs that may be required in college courses.**

	Minimum Requirements Listed Below	Recommended Requirements Listed Below
<b>Operating System</b>	Windows 10 or later / MacOS Ventura or later	Windows 10 or later / MacOS Sonoma or later
<b>Processor</b>	Intel Core 9 <sup>th</sup> Generation i5 (or higher), Apple M Series, AMD Ryzen 5 5000 series	Intel Core 11 <sup>th</sup> Generation i7 (or higher), Apple M Series, AMD Ryzen 7 5000 series
<b>Memory</b>	16GB or higher	16GB or higher
<b>Hard Drive</b>	256GB SSD or larger	512GB SSD or larger
<b>Graphics</b>	Intel, AMD/ATI, Apple, or NVIDIA Brand Graphics Card	
<b>Universal</b>	Built in Microphone and Webcam / Integrated Wireless Card	
<b>Warranty</b>	4 Year Warranty Extension with Accidental Damage Coverage (optional)	

Recommended Accessories	TCNJ Virtual Apps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USB Ethernet Adaptor</li> <li>• Headset/Headphones with Microphone</li> <li>• CAT 6 Ethernet Cable</li> <li>• USB Storage Device</li> <li>• Extra Power Adapter (charger)</li> <li>• Mac Users: USB Multiport Hub</li> <li>• Laptop Security Cable</li> </ul>	<p>TCNJ is subscribed to a service called Virtual Apps that allows students to access software normally found on college lab computers from their web browser. Virtual Apps is a great resource for students that expands accessibility to programs that may be required for their courses if they are limited to devices that do not meet our minimum recommendations.</p>

### Tips from the Help Desk:

- Bringing an extra power adapter will keep you covered in case the one that came with your computer breaks mid-semester. Additionally, you could keep one in your room and one in your bag if you carry your laptop with you
- There's no need for you to worry about buying Microsoft Office before coming to TCNJ; so long as you are a student, you get a subscription to Microsoft 365 for free
- All dorm rooms come with an Ethernet jack, so bringing your own CAT 6 Ethernet cable will make sure your computer is running with the fastest connection possible while you're in your room
- If you are bringing an extra monitor from home, make sure any new laptop you buy has the correct ports or that you have the proper adaptors to connect to it

In addition to IT's general minimum and recommended computer specs for students, the School of the Arts and Communication and the School of Engineering have provided us with their own computer requirements for students to run the processor and graphic-heavy programs required for their courses.

**The School of the Arts and Communications:** Recommends an *Apple MacBook Pro* with the specifications listed below. **However**, if a student would prefer a Windows computer, the specifications identified below for a School of Engineering computer would be acceptable.

**The School of Engineering:** Recommends a *Windows based computer* with the specifications listed below<sup>1</sup>. For Civil Engineering and Integrative STEM majors, the specifications listed in our General Computer Recommendations will meet their computing needs.

For both Schools, students should NOT rely on machines like tablets, iPads, or Chromebooks as their main computing device.

	School of the Arts and Communications	School of Engineering
<b>Operating System</b>	Any computer purchased will have an acceptable MacOS	Windows 10 or later
<b>Processor</b>	Apple M1 Pro or higher <sup>2</sup>	Intel Core i7 or higher. AMD Ryzen 7 or higher
<b>Screen Size</b>	14 or 16-inches <sup>3</sup>	Greater than 13.3 inches
<b>Graphics</b>	Apple M1 Pro 14-core or higher	NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1600 or later. Alternative brands with similar performance may be acceptable
<b>RAM</b>	16GB or higher	
<b>Hard Drive</b>	512GB Solid State Drive (SSD) storage or greater <sup>4</sup>	

### Using Financial Aid to Purchase a Laptop:

If you are encountering difficulties paying for your hardware or software we suggest you reach out to the Office of Financial Aid to discuss possible aid options.

### Footnotes:

1. Students in the School of Engineering are responsible for handling ALL compatibility problems associated with the use of MacOS or LinuxOS if they choose to not bring a Windows computer
2. Some MacBook Pros, even if they meet all other recommendations, may have an Intel i7 or i9 processor if purchased before 2020. While this is still acceptable, some software developers may phase out support for this hardware in Macs within the coming years
3. 16-inch displays may be more useful for some creative work if a student is not connected to an external monitor, but 14-inches is still viable
4. Sometimes finding a computer with larger storage can restrict what models are available to purchase, so this can be offset by students bringing a form of portable storage (such as a 1TB external hard drive)