

General PC Recommendations

Laptops and Desktops

These recommendations are for academic programs that do not require specialized hardware. If you are entering a technical program such as Computer Science, Multimedia, or Computer Aided Drafting and Design the specifications are more specialized. If you are in one of these programs, please get the technical requirements from the instructor.

Specification	Windows	Apple Macintosh
Operating System	Windows 10 or 11	macOS 10.13 High Sierra
Processor	Intel Core i5 or i7 AMD Ryzen5 or Ryzen7	1.3GHZ Intel Core i5 or better
Memory/RAM	8GB or more	8GB or more
Storage/Hard Drive*	250GB or more	250GB or more

*Solid State Disk or SSD is highly recommended for best performance.

Tablets*

Tablets and other similar mobile devices have been making inroads into education. Since there are multiple vendors and multiple configurations, our recommendation is to purchase from one of the well-known manufactures.

***Non windows based tablets may be unable to install necessary software for some classes.**

Microsoft	Apple	Amazon	Samsung	Google
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Chromebooks*

Like with tablets, many K-12's have been opting for Chromebooks over traditional laptops due to their ease of use, long battery life, and low-cost. Similarly, there are multiple vendors and manufacturers of Chromebooks our recommendation is to purchase one from the more well-known names in the field.

***Chromebooks may be unable to install necessary software for some classes.**

Acer	Dell	Google	HP	Lenovo	LG	Samsung
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***While Ridgewater College strives to support student success on a wide range of devices, opting for a tablet or Chromebook over a traditional laptop or desktop can be met with strict limitations of the device. For example, a student taking an accounting class may not be able to perform advanced spreadsheet functions that are only available in a full desktop application suite, where a traditional PC or Mac is necessary.**