

Notebook Computer Requirement

Beginning with the Class of 2011, it will be an academic requirement of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine that students own a notebook (laptop or tablet) with wireless capability. The advantage of having a formal requirement of computer ownership is that the cost of a computer can be included in a student's budget for federal and private financial aid purposes.

Historically, the focus of IT in education has been on the desktop platforms in computer laboratories. Numerous key factors have led to the adoption of mobile PC technology in higher education. As a result, the College of Veterinary Medicine requires its DVM students to own a notebook computer, either a tablet PC or a traditional laptop. Mobile PC technology enables greater flexibility so that you can easily bring your device and electronic notes to each class and home. Additionally, wireless networks eliminate the need to wire or renovate facilities, which saves on infrastructure costs. The length of battery life has improved and costs of mobile technology have fallen making it affordable for students.

The following minimum configuration is a good investment and should serve you well through your DVM years without any additional upgrades to the hardware. Recommended MINIMUM system configuration for NEW purchases:

- Windows XP or Mac OS X
- Intel Core Duo processor (1.66GHz)
- 1024 MB = 1 GB memory
- 80 GB hard drive
- 10/100 ethernet card
- 802.11 a/b/g wireless card
- 3 year complete coverage warranty + on-site repair

The Tablet PC technology allows you to use a stylus pen and operate the computer without a keyboard or mouse. The ability to add hand-written notes to an instructor's materials and save their annotation for further study proves invaluable to our current DVM students. The Computing Services department at the College has prepared a few Tablet PC and laptop packages for you to purchase that adhere to the minimum requirements. More information about each package is available on your new student website. You can purchase these packages online by visiting <http://www.cdwg.com> and entering the CDW-G part number or <http://www.delluniversity.com> use BS25088251 as your UIUC member ID.

Finally, the hardware warranty for any new purchase is important to read carefully and understand. Computing Services recommends a three-year complete hardware warranty with on-site repair. The complete warranty is an extensive repair or replacement service covering damage that is caused by accidents. These accidents are generally not covered under the standard product warranty, warranty upgrades or other extended service offerings. Accidental damage due to power surges, drops or falls, liquid spills and LCD damage caused by a drop or a fall are covered under this warranty. In addition, it features coverage at home and in the college and includes complete repair or replacement of your device.