College of Veterinary Medicine
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College of Veterinary Medicine Student New Computer Requirements

The College of Veterinary Medicine requires professional students to own a notebook computer- either a tablet PC or a traditional laptop. Mobile computer technology enables greater flexibility so that you can easily bring your device and electronic notes to each class and home. Tablet technology allows you to use a stylus pen or finger to operate the computer without a keyboard or mouse, and the ability to add hand-written notes to an instructor's materials for further study proves invaluable to our current DVM students.

The following minimum configuration is a good investment and should serve you well through your professional years. Required MINIMUM system configuration for NEW purchases:

- Windows 7, 8.1 or 10 Professional / Mac OS X 10.10 Yosemite (running Windows Virtual Machine)
- Intel Core i5 processor (2.5 GHz) equivalent or higher
- Memory (RAM): 4GB for 32 bit GB Operating System/ 8GB 64-bit GB Operating System
- High Definition (HD) Graphics card
- 320 GB hard drive (Solid State hard drive recommended but not required)
- 10/100 Ethernet card
- 802.11 a/b/g/n dual band wireless card; must be capable of connecting to the 5GHz wireless band[1]
- 3 year complete coverage or accidental care warranty
- 500 GB external backup hard drive or sufficient cloud based storage

[1] *In order to receive the necessary wireless performance for the College curriculum, your computer's wireless card must be capable of a 5GHz (dual band) wireless connection. Stores and online vendors often do not readily provide specifics on the capabilities of the wireless cards in their computers. Before purchasing, make sure to check with the retailer that your new computer contains the proper type of wireless card.*

New computers and accessories can be purchased online at a variety of retailers; below are a few suggested by Computing Services:

- CDW-G: http://www.cdwg.com/
- Dell: http://www.dell.com/
- HP: http://www.hp.com/
- Illini Union Tech Zone: http://union.illinois.edu/techzone/

Computing Services also recommends a 3-year complete/accidental care warranty with on-site repair. The complete care warranty is an extensive service contract that both extends the initial manufacturer warranty and provides protection for accidental damage such as drops and spills. Many complete care warranties also offer the option of at-home service or replacement so that you will not need to send your computer off for repairs. It is important that you read and understand the details of your warranty coverage; you should also keep purchase and warranty information in a safe place should you need it.

Finally, the purchase of an external hard drive or comparable cloud based storage to back up class and personal files will prove to be an invaluable tool. Should your computer experience hardware problems or data loss, regular backups kept   on an external drive or cloud will allow you to quickly retrieve your data once your computer is repaired. You can also connect this drive to another computer and continue your work while you wait for repairs to be   completed.

If you have questions regarding new computer purchases, please contact Computing Services at 217-333-1533 or email net@vetmed.illinois.edu.

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