

Information Technology & Management Notebook PC Specifications

While we do not currently require students enrolled in the Information Technology & Management (ITM) degree program prior to Fall 2016 to own a notebook computer, it will certainly enhance your student experience to have one. Students entering the department in Fall 2016 and later are required to own a notebook computer.

Standards below reflect specifications for notebook computers for use by ITM students; each category is broken down into recommended, minimum and, where applicable, optional specifications. Your system may run **any** operating system but must be able to run Microsoft Windows 7 Professional as the primary operating system or as a secondary (dual-boot) operating system or as a virtual machine using virtualization software. These are specifications you must meet if you are purchasing a notebook computer for use in our program. If you have questions about these specifications, please contact Ray Trygstad, trygstad@iit.edu or 630.447.9009.

ITEM	RECOMMENDED	MINIMUM	OPTIONAL/OPTIMAL
Processor	Intel Core i7 AMD A8	Intel Core i3 H or U AMD A4	Intel Core i7 HQ or MQ AMD A10
◆ You may not be able to run virtualization software adequately without VT or AMD-V technology.			
RAM Memory	8GB or greater	4GB	8GB RAM is optimal to run Windows 7/10 & virtualization
◆ You may not be able to run all necessary applications with only 512 MB of RAM. ◆ You may not be able to run virtualization software optimally with only 4 GB of RAM. ◆ 16GB or more of RAM is highly desirable.			
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 7, 8.1 or 10 Professional	Microsoft Windows 7 Professional	Linux or Solaris Macintosh OS/X Windows Server 2008/2012
◆ MacBooks must have BootCamp, Oracle VirtualBox, Parallels Desktop or Vmware Fusion installed allowing running of Microsoft operating systems. VirtualBox is available for free at http://www.virtualbox.org/ and is the recommended desktop virtualization solution in our program. ◆ Linux or Solaris notebooks must have Oracle VirtualBox, Xen, KVM, or VMware Workstation installed allowing running of Microsoft operating systems. VirtualBox is available for free at http://www.virtualbox.org/ and is the recommended desktop virtualization solution in our program. ◆ Microsoft, Linux & Solaris OS software is all available at no cost to all ITM students but you should purchase a system that will support Windows 7 Professional as a minimum standard. ◆ Ubuntu and Ubuntu variants Kubuntu, Linux Mint, and Pingu, as well as OpenSUSE are recommended Linux distributions. ◆ Windows Home versions will not support all software or OS functions you may need in our curriculum.			
Hard Drive	500GB	128GB	SSD - 256GB or 512GB
◆ 120/128GB minimum suggested for dual boot with Windows and Linux/Solaris or for use with Windows Virtual PC or Hyper-V.			
Optical drive (May be external)	24-48x CD-RW/DVD-RW	24x CD-RW/DVD-R	Blu-Ray / Blu-Ray-R
Floppy drive	Neither required or expected		3.5 inch 1.44MB
Graphics card	128MB or greater, 24-bit color	64MB 24-bit color	
Display resolution	1280x1024 XGA or greater	1024x768 SVGA	
Wireless Network	IEEE 802.11g/n	IEEE 802.11g	4G Wireless or IEEE 802.11ac
Network Port	1000Base-T ethernet	100Base-T ethernet	
◆ Virtually all notebook PCs sold today include a gigabit (1000Base-T) ethernet port as standard items.			
Peripheral Port	2 USB-3 / 1 USB-2	1 USB-2	IEEE 1394 (FireWire) 3 USB-3 eSATA
Office Software	LibreOffice	LibreOffice	Microsoft Office 2007 or greater
◆ LibreOffice is available for free at http://www.libreoffice.org/ . ◆ A free student subscription to Microsoft Office 365 which includes five full installations of Microsoft Office for Windows or OSX is available to IIT students at https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education			
Anti-Virus Software	including all current updates		Optional on Mac/Linux
◆ IIT provides a licensed version of McAfee VirusScan for use by for all students, faculty & staff; Microsoft Security Essentials—which is free from Microsoft—is also recommended. You may not operate any version of Microsoft Windows on IIT networks without installed anti-virus software.			

Convertible or “2-in-1” systems such as the Microsoft Surface, Dell Inspiron, Lenovo Thinkpad Yoga or Lenovo Yoga, Acer Aspire, or Toshiba Satellite Radius that comply with these specifications are acceptable. Students should have a flash/thumb drive for lab use; 2GB minimum is recommended. See page 16 above for software available at no cost to ITM students.