Computer Recommendations for Accepted Students

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing students have access to over 100 computers throughout our buildings. However, most also find it convenient to own a laptop for use at home or while in the building. If you already own a computer that you wish to use for school work, ideally it should be no older than four years old with sufficient processing power and memory to run current versions of Microsoft Office and Symantec Antivirus, and possibly more demanding applications such as statistical software and Second Life. Use of personal laptops within the school is encouraged. The school supports a high-speed wireless network with coverage throughout all of the school buildings. The SON Help Desk, part of an array of IT services offered by the ITS department, offers on-site technical assistance for students, including support of student laptops.

New Computer Purchases

If you plan to purchase a new computer before starting your studies, we strongly encourage you to purchase a laptop computer recommended by the Johns Hopkins Mobile Computing Program (MCP). The JHU MCP works with Apple and Dell to create offerings for students that are reasonably priced, powerful enough to run most applications that you'll need during your course of study, and with support and warranty coverage that is much better than what you typically get when purchasing a laptop outside of the MCP program. Additionally, if you purchase a laptop through this program, the SON Help Desk will provide enhanced support for your system. You also have the option to obtain onsite warranty service for Dell and Apple laptops from Technical Assistance in Garland Hall on the Homewood campus.

Recommended Systems and Options

As of March 2011, the School of Nursing recommends the following two laptop options for new purchases. You should be successful with either a Dell Windows laptop or an Apple Mac laptop, but a Windows laptop may be a better option if you are a graduate student or plan to later continue graduate studies, as some statistical programs currently run only on the Windows operating system. The SON Help Desk is able to provide hardware repair service for Dell laptops.

Dell Vostro 3450 w/ Intel Core i5

- Windows 7 Professional 64-bit, Intel Core i5 (2.3 GHz), 14" HD LED display, Intel HD Graphics 3000, 4 GB memory, 500 GB hard drive
- 3 year warranty included
- We recommend adding the 3 year CompleteCare accidental damage protection

Apple MacBook Pro 13-inch: 2.3 GHz

- Intel Core i5 (2.3 GHz), 13" HD display, Intel HD Graphics 3000, 4 GB memory, 320 GB hard drive
- We recommend adding the 3 year AppleCare Protection Plan option (NOTE: Apple does not offer accidental damage protection)
- We recommend the Mini DisplayPort to VGA Adapter for class presentations

How to Purchase

Visit the MCP program web site for more information and to order your laptop:

http://www.it.johnshopkins.edu/services/mobiledevices/mcp/

NOTE
For Apple orders, follow the directions for "Direct ship purchasing" and have the laptop shipped directly to you.

Internet Service Recommendations

Broadband Internet access (cable or DSL service) is strongly recommended for a successful computing experience when working at home, and is required for some online courses. Satellite Internet access is not recommended due to high latency (delay in transmission of data).

If you plan to conduct school work in a public location (non-JHU library, coffee shop, etc.) or at work, the SON cannot guarantee that all applications used in various courses will work due to restrictions on public and corporate networks that are beyond our control. Hospitals in particular often have very restrictive firewalls in place that may inhibit access to online videos, web conferencing, and other similar applications that some of our courses use.

Software

You are encouraged to obtain a copy of Microsoft Office 2010 for Windows or Microsoft Office 2011 for Mac. You can obtain a heavily discounted copy of Office here:

http://www.theultimatesteal.com

Office 2010 Win
Office 2011 Mac

You will need a valid university-assigned email address (ending in .edu) to be eligible for this pricing. You will be provided with a Johns Hopkins student email account during orientation.

Students are encouraged to install antivirus software. Johns Hopkins provides a free copy of Symantec Antivirus (which does not expire), but you will need to log in with your university-assigned account (JHED) to download the software. This account will also be provided to you during orientation.

http://www.it.johnshopkins.edu/antivirus/

More information about your JHED account and student email will be provided to you closer to the start of classes.

Contact Us

If you have questions about these computer recommendations, please send an email to the SON Help Desk, helpdesk@son.jhmi.edu