

# **PITTSTATE**

## **STUDENT COMPUTER RECOMMENDATIONS**



**QUESTIONS?** [geeks@pittstate.edu](mailto:geeks@pittstate.edu)



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Before purchasing a computer, check the college/department computer requirements for your field of study. You can find contact information to Academic Departments in our University Directory.

Engineering Tech Majors: The Dept of Engineering Technology has created a recommendation page for all ETECH Majors.

If you are looking for a midline machine and don't need a specific machine tightly connected to your major, please see the following recommendations.



Save on your computer purchase by ordering through PSU's Pitt Start Page!

### Questions?

Contact the Gorilla Geeks  
620.235.4600 or [geeks@pittstate.edu](mailto:geeks@pittstate.edu) or  
109 Whitesitt Hall

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Decide on your Operating System (OS). The most commonly used OS's at PSU are Windows and MacOS.

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Our Recommendations on the details:

***Operating system:***

Windows 11 (Professional, Education, Enterprise, or Home) OR the Latest Mac Operating System.

***NOTE We do NOT recommend devices with Windows S Mode.***

***Processor:***

Laptop: Intel Core i5 / Ryzen 5 or better.

Desktop: Intel Core i5 / Ryzen 5 or better.

***Monitor and video card:***

Laptop: LCD 1280x800 resolution or higher.

Desktop: 1080p/FHD or better.

If doing a lot of 3D rendering or other graphic processing-intensive tasks, Preferred to have dedicated graphics card for either laptop or desktop.

***Storage:*** 500 gigabytes or more solid-state drive. \*1TB of cloud storage is included with your FREE Microsoft Office 365 account (more info below).

***Memory:*** (RAM) 8GB is recommended for low-end use of graphic intense applications, 16GB is recommended to medium to normal use, and 32GB is recommended for high-end use of system intensive programs such as graphics and video.

***Multimedia:*** Speakers, microphone, and webcam. (These are generally included with new laptops.)

***\*Microsoft Office/Office 365:*** There is no need to purchase this. As a student, you will receive FREE local installs of Office and a login to Office 365. Learn more at our Office 365 page.



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### More Key Recommendations:

***Netbooks, Tablets, and Windows S Mode computing devices*** (ex books, iPads, Chromebooks, laptops with Windows S Mode, etc.) do not have the computing power and operating systems of a normal laptop or desktop computer. For this reason, these tools are not recommended for use as a primary computer at Pittsburg State. Compatibility and computing power issues are highly likely to arise with any of these types of devices. In addition, Lockdown Browser, which is used heavily by instructors, is ***NOT compatible with Chromebooks and Windows S mode systems.***

***Anti Virus Software:*** 3rd party antivirus can be installed on your computer, BUT if you have a Windows computer, ensure that it is up to date and that Windows Defender is enabled.

***Browsers:*** Web applications occasionally do not work well with all browsers. Individuals are encouraged to install an alternative browser such as Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox, in addition to the default browsers provided with the operating system. In addition, keeping browsers up to date is critical to interfacing with University resources like Canvas, Office 365, etc.

***Backup:*** Use a backup program like Windows Backup or Mac OS Time Machine, with an external hard drive, to ensure file recovery in the event of a system malfunction. \*The utilization of One Drive (with your FREE MS Office 365 account) is encouraged.



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### More Key Recommendations (continued):

**Warranty:** Add an extended warranty to cover the length of your academic use of the computer. Check with your homeowner's or renter's insurance to see if your computer is covered for damages or theft and get additional coverage if needed.

**Security:** Consider adding security hardware, such as a security cable or software.

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### Key Purchasing Tips:

**Get Your Media:** When purchasing a computer, make sure it includes copies of all media disks or download links (operating system, drivers, and applications) and bring copies of these disks/links with you.

**Double-check price quotes** as sometimes prices don't include a keyboard, mouse, monitor, or the recommended operating system.

**Printers** are usually sold separately. Inkjet and laser printers provide high-quality printing. Before you buy, compare prices, features, and cartridge replacement costs. Wireless printers are not permitted in the dorms. Dorm print stations are provided. Learn more about Student Housing technology in the PSU [Housing Move-In Guides!](#)

**Cables:** Ensure you have everything needed to connect and use your systems, including power cables and USB cables.

**Cost:** The estimated cost for a midline Windows machine, with the basics, ranges from \$1,000 - \$1,500. Again, check out [PSU student discounts!](#) Apple now offers the MacBook NEO at a starting price of \$599.00

