Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Student Computer Technical Recommendations

Technology- Minimum Specifications

The minimum specifications are based on a 4-year program of study. ABAC recommends purchasing a laptop. Some course sections may be taught with the expectation that students use laptop computers in class (BYOD classroom), so a laptop may provide expanded instructional opportunities for students. Many students also meet in groups to work on class projects using laptops or choose to study outside their residence hall rooms. All students should check with their prospective major school and department to see if they have specific laptop computer requirements.

Use the following guidelines when selecting your laptop to ensure the device meets our campus wide recommendations.

Windows (Recommended)

- Operating System: Windows 11
- Processor: Intel core i5 or better
- Memory: 8GB minimum* 16GB+ recommended
- Hard Drive: 256 SSD minimum, recommended 512GB
- Webcam and microphone
- Antivirus Protection: Windows Defender and Windows Firewall are recommended to protect your device.
- Wi-Fi connectivity

*16 GB RAM or more and compatible graphics card recommended for AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Suite applications, and other graphic and video-intensive applications. These applications can be purchased with student discount from the USG Technology Store (http://techstore.usg.edu/).

Apple (Check with Program of Study about Apple's software limitations)

- Operating System: macOS 13 or higher
- Processor: Apple M1 to Current
- Memory: 16GB*
- Hard Drive: 256 SSD minimum, recommended 512GB SSD
- Webcam and microphone
- Antivirus Protection: Sophos is recommended to protect your device.
- Wi-Fi connectivity

*16GB of RAM is recommended on all Apple laptops because, in some situations, you may need to run virtual environment software that allows you to partition the memory of your laptop to simultaneously run macOS and Windows operating systems.

Optional Accessories:

- Dongles for connecting to an USB, external display or projection devices
- USB (or USB-C) flash drive

- CAT-5e or CAT-6 Ethernet cable (25 ft or longer recommended)
- Laptop anti-theft cable lock
- USB or Bluetooth microphone and headphones
- Extra Power Supply

Limitations of other devices
Devices with alternative Operating Systems such as Chrome OS (Chromebooks) and Linux operating systems are not recommended as your only computing device. ABAC doesn't recommend students use tablets, mobile phones, Chromebook, or netbooks as their primary computing device, though these devices may help supplement their computing needs.
The reasons for this are:
- Many courses rely on video and interactive content to deliver essential course materials. Not all video and interactive content formats are supported by these devices.
- The primary learning management system at ABAC, D2L (GeorgiaView), can be used with iPad or Android devices. However, some critical features may require additional applications to function that are not available on all devices.
- There are some applications (e.g., MATLAB) which are required in some majors that will not run on the iOS or Android devices. While students can use ABAC computer labs to overcome this limitation, it does reduce the convenience of having all the applications needed on one primary computer.
- Netbook computers tend to be underpowered and will likely be insufficient for students' use throughout the duration of their college experience. In addition, netbooks may not be able to run some high-powered software students need for coursework.

Necessary Computer Programs & Applications
Various programs and classes at ABAC require software to complete coursework. Please check with your Instructor, School, and Department for specifics on those programs.
Microsoft 365 Apps for Enterprise downloads are available to all active ABAC students through Microsoft 365.
Each student can download Microsoft 365 Apps on up to five devices: computers (Windows or Apple macOS), tablets (Windows, Apple ipadOS, and/or Android), or smartphones (iOS and/or Android. Microsoft 365 Apps include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and OneNote.
Additional software is available through the USG
Technology Store. http://techstore.usg.edu

Personal Computer Support

Information Technology Services offers limited support assistance for personally owned computers. Unfortunately, ABAC Technology Support personal cannot perform repair or installation work on computers that are not owned by ABAC. It is highly recommended that students purchase extended warranty from the manufacture when purchasing a device. If you are experiencing issues you can submit a Help Desk ticket through Tech Support link in My.ABAC.EDU and we can provide resources for best practice.