

# Heinz College Laptop Requirements

April 2019

## **Policy Statement**

All Heinz College students enrolled in a full time degree program are required to have a laptop at the beginning of the semester through graduation.

It is highly recommended that part time students have a laptop at the beginning of the semester or when the degree program requires the use of a laptop. Some courses may require the use of a laptop. Please read the syllabus for each course for the requirements.

## **Minimum Hardware Specifications**

In order to be successful at Heinz, your laptop must meet the minimum hardware specifications below. We **strongly** recommend you buy a laptop that meets the **recommended** specifications.

	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>NOT recommended and/or not supported</b>
<b>Processor</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Generation Intel Core i5 2.2 GHz or better, dual-core (Policy Track)	7 <sup>th</sup> Generation Intel Core i5 2.4 or better (IS/IT Track)	Pentium ULV processor; Intel Atom or like processor
<b>RAM</b>	8 GB	16 GB or more	
<b>Hard Drive</b>	256 GB	512 GB or more	
<b>Wireless</b>	802.11n		
<b>Operating System</b>	Windows 10 Pro: 64 bit (English Language) or greater.	Windows 10 Pro, Enterprise- 64 bit (English Language)	Linux, OS in any non-English language, Mac OS (See Mac section below), 32 bit OS.
<b>Warranty</b>	None	Yes, for your entire enrollment period	

**Unsupported Equipment:** iPad, iPhone, smart phones or like devices; Kindles, Nook, netbooks, and tablet PCs without keyboards (just to name a few). Any

questions about supported equipment can be emailed to [heinz-computing@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:heinz-computing@andrew.cmu.edu).

## Laptop Older than 2 years?

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If your laptop is two years old, it might meet the specifications listed above. It depends on whether you bought a gaming or a basic productivity laptop. If your computer is 3 or more years old, it likely will not meet the specifications. If your laptop is 4 years old, it is highly unlikely to meet the specifications.

Laptop Age	Recommendation	Actions
0-1 Year old	Likely meets the recommended specifications	Compare the computer specifications with the guidelines above.
2-3 Years old	Likely does not meet recommended specifications.	Compare the computer specifications with the guideline above. Consider buying a laptop that will meet the recommendations.
4 Years or older	Does not meet recommended specifications.	Consider buying a laptop that will meet the recommendations.

We do not have physical computers for public use in Hamburg Hall. Your laptop is your primary computing platform. In order for you to be successful, please review the laptop requirements guideline prior to your arrival.

## Operating System

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### Windows

We only support Windows 10 Professional\Enterprise. We do not support Windows Vista/8 or **any** other version of Windows Home. Many core course applications will NOT run on Home Editions of Windows. If you are unable to buy a laptop with a supported operating system, we suggest one of the following:

- **You can upgrade to a supported OS at no charge once you are on campus.**
- Dual boot your computer so you can choose to run Windows 10 at startup. This option is for advanced users only. Please be advised that data loss can occur while attempting to setup your computer for dual boot and that all precautions including backups should be taken.
- Virtualization: See virtualization section below.

### Mac OS

We do **not** recommend Mac OS. Some of our core courses require software **only available on Windows OS**. Many of our students with Macs have reported difficulty completing assignments with Mac OS. Unless you are **very comfortable** with hardware virtualization and installing Windows on Mac OS and have a Mac computer with **8GB RAM or greater**, we do not recommend you use a Mac for your primary computing platform.

If you do decide to use Mac OS, do so at your own risk. We do provide support for Mac OS X 10.11 (El Capitan) or greater. You will however, need to **install Windows** if you are in an IT/IS program. Policy programs can generally use Mac OS without much issue. We recommend setting up Boot Camp (<http://www.apple.com/support/bootcamp/>) to dual boot with Windows Pro. You can download Windows from [Microsoft Imagine](#).

<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/software/all/msimagine/>

## **Virtualization**

This section is optional. You only need to install virtualization if you have an unsupported operating system or want to run Windows-only programs on Mac OS X.

Download VirtualBox (<http://www.virtualbox.org/>) (or your favorite virtual hypervisor) for Mac OS X or Windows. The host laptop must have at least 6 GB of RAM (8 GB RAM recommended) for this option to work properly. When you install Windows 7/8/10 Professional in the virtual environment, you must designate at least 2.5 GB (3 GB recommended) of RAM. You can also download **VMWare Workstation at no charge once you are on campus**.

## **Operating System Language**

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Some of our course software expects to see **English** as the operating system language and will fail to install or function correctly if other languages are used. We regret that Computing Services is unable to support laptops that are not set to the English language.

## **Ordering a Laptop from Carnegie Mellon**

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You can order a laptop from the Carnegie Mellon computer store. They offer a wide variety of manufacturers at educational discount pricing.

<http://bookstore.web.cmu.edu/computerstore>

## Consulting Services

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Heinz Computing Services can answer any question you have about your current computer or if you are buying a new computer. Send your questions to [heinz-computing@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:heinz-computing@andrew.cmu.edu).