

## College of Nursing Laptop Requirements

College of Nursing freshman are required to have access to a laptop computer in order to take online exams, complete assignments, participate in online class components, and utilize in class as needed. The laptop you have access to should be either an Apple or Windows computer that meets or exceeds the minimum standards outlined in this document. If you have a computer that does not meet these minimum requirements you may not be able to complete the needs of your program and coursework.

<b><u>Component Type</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum for Currently Owned Computers</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum Recommendation for New Computer Purchases</u></b>
<b>Operating System</b>	Apple - Mac OS X 10.8.5 or newer Windows - Windows 7 or newer	Apple - Mac OS X 10.10 or newer Windows - Windows 7 or newer
<b>Processor</b>	2.1 GHz Intel Pentium i3 Dual Core processor	1.6 GHz Intel Pentium i5 Dual Core processor or greater
<b>Memory</b>	4 GB RAM	8 GB RAM or more
<b>Hard Drive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120 GB storage with at least 30 GB free; 250 GB storage or more with at least 30 GB free is recommended</li> <li>• Mechanical hard drives at speeds of 5,400 RPM or 7,200 RPM are acceptable though Solid State (Flash) drives are highly recommended</li> </ul>	
<b>Web Cam</b>	Built-In or USB - Capable of a resolution of at least 640x480 (VGA)	HD Built-In - Capable of a resolution of at least 1280x720 (720p)
<b>Audio Output</b>	Built-In Speakers	
<b>Microphone</b>	Built-In (preferred) or USB	
<b>Laptop Screen</b>	Capable of a resolution of at least 1366x768	Capable of a resolution of at least 1366x768; 13" or larger is recommended
<b>Wireless</b>	Wireless 802.11g	Wireless 802.11n (backward compatible)
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Have at least one functional USB port available	

Please note that a Windows tablet running the full version of Windows 8 or higher (not Windows 8 RT or 8.1 RT) that otherwise meets the specifications outlined above is sufficient to meet the requirement. It is highly recommended that you have a keyboard and mouse to use with the Windows tablet. A Chromebook, iPad, Windows RT-based device, Android-based device, Linux-based device, and similar non-OS X or Windows-based devices do not meet the requirement.



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### **Recommended Peripherals**

- Headset - Logitech ClearChat H390 - A headset will provide clearer audio recording and a more private way to listen to audio and video from classes and when listening to online course conferences.
- USB Data Stick: 8 GB minimum recommended - may be needed for sharing data and documents with classmates or for presentations in class

### **Internet access**

On campus you have access to high speed wireless internet – visit [“Connecting to the Campus Wireless Network”](#) for instructions on how to get connected.

Off campus you should have access to a broadband internet connection (cable or DSL). This connection should have speeds of at least 1.5 Mb down and 1.5 Mb up. If you have access to faster speeds you will have an improved experience. You may verify your internet speeds by checking with your internet provider or to quickly assess your speeds you can visit [Speedtest](#).

### **Required Software**

#### ***Microsoft Office***

Whether you have Office already or not most students are eligible for a free download of Office while they are taking classes. Please visit [this page about Office 365](#) for more information. If you have Office already you do not need to upgrade to the latest version, but you must have the minimum version listed below.

- **Apple** - Office 2011 or newer
- **Windows** - Office 2010 or newer

**KSU Cisco VPN** – Required to access research databases through the KSU library from off-campus  
**Respondus Lockdown Browser** – May be required to take tests through Blackboard Learn

Visit [Kent State’s Software Catalog](#) for download links to these and other applications.

Please be aware that you may be required to download and install other course specific applications throughout your time here at Kent State University.

### **Backup**

There are plenty of backup and online storage solutions available such as DropBox, Carbonite, and Microsoft OneDrive. Did you know that with your Kent State email account you have unlimited space with Google Drive? It’s our recommended backup solution for students. You can install the Google Drive app on your computer and any data you store in the Google Drive folder will be backed up to Google’s storage and be accessible in a web browser (click the “Drive” icon in Flashline). Visit [Google Drive](#) to get started.

### **College Recommendations for New Laptop Purchases**

- **Apple** - MacBook Air 13” or MacBook Pro Retina 13”
- **Windows** - Dell Latitude e7240 or Latitude e7440 or newer

## **Warranty**

Most laptops come with a one-year manufacturer's warranty. It is highly recommended that you purchase an extended warranty for any laptop that you purchase. With Apple laptops you can buy an extra two years of warranty directly through Apple. As a student you can buy Apple warranties, named AppleCare, at an educational discount rate. You can buy the extra two years anytime within the first year after ownership. You can also buy an extended warranty for most Windows computers ranging in length from one additional year up to four additional years. You can usually buy accidental damage coverage when you buy an extended warranty from the manufacturer of a Windows computer. You cannot buy accidental coverage directly from Apple on Apple laptops. Even if you do not buy a warranty from the manufacturer of your laptop you can buy third-party warranties from companies such as [SquareTrade](#).

## **Where to buy?**

Many stores, such as Best Buy, offer unique deals and offers for college students. Feel free to check with them and other major retailers for incentives around the start of the Fall semester. You may also buy directly from the manufacturers and the Kent State University Bookstore. You can often save money by purchasing a computer refurbished by the manufacturer – these generally have the same warranty options and quality as a new laptop. It is recommended that you find reviews through Google for the pros and cons of the specific model you are considering purchasing. This will help to ensure you not only meet our requirements, but also verify quality and to provide insight on your needs (battery life, weight, etc.). You may consider filing a [Cost of Attendance Increase Form](#) to potentially assist with paying for a new laptop.

- The Kent State Bookstore – Located in the Kent State University Student Center on the Kent campus
- [Apple Higher Education Store](#) - Purchase directly from Apple with educational discounts already applied to the listed price.
- [Dell Outlet](#)
- [Lenovo Outlet](#)

## **University Services**

### ***Training***

Want to learn basic or in-depth information for using Adobe's premier software (Photoshop, InDesign, etc.), Google Apps, or Microsoft Office products? Visit [Tech Help's Technology Workshops page](#) to sign up for on campus workshops hosted by Kent State University's division of Information Services.

### ***Tech Spot***

The Tech Spot is Kent State's on-site technology service center; here to help all students, faculty and staff resolve issues with their personal computers and mobile devices. The Tech Spot is Apple and Dell certified to perform warranty repairs. Please visit [Tech Spot's website](#) to view all of the services they offer as well as contact, location, and pricing information.