

Student Device Guidance

Guidelines for Tech Purchases

- **NO Chromebooks as your primary academic device**
 - *Why:* While Chromebooks are convenient for basic web browsing, they lack the full operating system required to run specialized academic software. Most of the clinical applications and proctoring tools are incompatible with ChromeOS and cannot be installed on these devices. To ensure you can successfully complete your coursework and exams, a standard Windows-based laptop is highly recommended.
- **NO iPads as your primary academic device**
 - *Why:* While iPads offer great portability, they function on a mobile operating system that cannot support the robust, full-version software required by the healthcare and humanities programs. Many of the mandatory academic tools and clinical databases are incompatible with iPadOS, often preventing installation or limiting essential functionality. For a reliable academic experience, students should utilize a Windows-based laptop rather than a tablet as their primary device.
- **Windows Laptops STRONGLY ENCOURAGED over MacBooks as your primary academic device**
 - *Why:* The majority of the programs rely on specialized clinical software, exam proctoring tools, and database applications that are often incompatible with macOS or require complex workarounds. The Mount IT department and the Instructional Technologist may have limited ability to troubleshoot macOS-specific software issues. Prioritizing compatibility by opting for a Windows operating system now will prevent technical disruptions during your academic and professional training.

Minimum Requirements

- **Operating System: Windows 11 Home or Pro**
 - **Warning:* Many budget laptops come in "S-Mode." Students *must* switch out of S-Mode (it's free to do so) to install Chrome, Examsoft, Respondus, and other programs needed in your time at the Mount. If you need help with that, come visit the Instructional Technologist in the library.
- **Processor (CPU): Intel Core i5 or AMD Ryzen 5 (12th Gen or newer)**
 - *Why:* An i3 or Ryzen 3 will struggle with advanced image rendering needed for anatomy software, healthcare courses, etc.
 - Avoid "Celeron" or "Pentium" processors entirely.
- **Memory (RAM): 16GB** (Strongly recommended)
 - *Why:* While 8GB is the "minimum" for most apps, Windows 11 and Google Chrome are memory-hungry. 16GB ensures the laptop lasts all your college years without slowing down.
- **Storage: 256GB SSD** (Solid State Drive)
 - *Why:* SSDs are much faster and more durable for students carrying laptops around in backpacks.
 - Avoid "eMMC" storage.
- **Display: 15.6-inch Full HD (1920 x 1080)**
 - *Why:* Students need the screen real estate for Excel, Canvas, Canva, PowerPoint, you name it. Healthcare students need the clarity of a large screen for detailed medical diagrams.

- **Webcam/Microphone**
 - *Why:* Students will need to record presentations, attend online meetings, use their webcam and microphone for proctored exams, and (since we're the highest elevated campus in PA) participate in classes virtually on snowy and icy days occasionally. Making sure you have a camera and microphone built into your main device now will save you many headaches later.

Once You Have Your Laptop...

- As a Mount student, you should always, ALWAYS, use Google Chrome as your default internet browser for *everything* Mount-related. It will give you less errors and better experience on all of our programs. Do not use Microsoft Edge or Safari, especially for Canvas-connected programs.
- Check to see if you have McAfee software on your computer. If you do, make a visit to IT on the third floor of Main or to the Instructional Technologist in the Library to remove any McAfee software that may have come with the computer. It has a very high chance of harming your computer or locking you out. Windows Defender (which is already built-in and free on Windows machines) is the recommended alternative to keep you protected.
- You are entitled to FREE Microsoft Office as a student! Visit <https://www.office.com/> and login with your Mountie email address and password.

Money-Saving Pro-Tip for Students: Check for "Student Discounts" on the manufacturer's website (Dell University, Lenovo Students) or at retailers like Best Buy. You can often shave another \$50–\$100 off retail prices with your school email.