

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR INCOMING COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS

Dear Incoming Student,

The choice of a computer type or even a manufacturer is one of personal choice. We do have arrangements made with Dell, HP and Apple to extend discounts for certain types of hardware to our students should you choose to order directly from them. More information can be found at <http://www.baylor.edu/techprocurement/index.php?id=45255>. That web page contains information and pricing specific to Baylor Students so you will need your Bear_ID and password setup first. Certain types of systems purchased from these vendors can also be serviced under warranty from our on campus computer shop if the need arises.

As to the type of computer (desktop or laptop), the choice is up to you. Some of our faculty members prefer that students not bring laptops to class as it has been an issue of distraction while others do not have any objections to it. Most of the software used by Computer Science is freely available. Students can easily configure a system in a very similar manner to our lab configurations. As part of your class work you will be required to attend the formal lab section of your introduction courses in Computer Science. During this time you will be in one of our computer labs using the configuration and software we have in the labs. A graduate assistant will be there to help guide your work and assist you as needed.

Most of our students come with laptops and we are working on the back end infrastructure (wireless, power, etc) to support more laptops in classrooms. Our classrooms on the first floor have power for every seat, and it is not uncommon to see 10-20 laptops floating around the building as the day goes on with students working in small groups to complete assignments and programs. Desktop systems are usually much cheaper for the same base configuration than laptops but are not as portable. It is really your decision as to how you think you will be using the system.

On a whole we can suggest that you think of a system with the following minimum specifications:

Multi core processor
8GB of memory
500GB or larger hard drive
discrete graphics card (with discrete memory) and if you decide on a laptop, an 802.11g or better wireless network card

If you decide to purchase a system with a Windows operating system we would suggest Windows 7 x64 as your base OS. We have been using Windows 7 for our labs over the past year and have really enjoyed it. You can purchase both Windows 7 ultimate and Microsoft Office 2010 from the university bookstore for a VERY reduced rate. The last time I checked Windows 7 was about \$10 and Office was around \$20. As a Baylor student you will also have access to copies of our AntiVirus software (and if you are living in the residence hall, you will be required to run our version) at no charge so you may want to keep that in mind as you are configuring your system.

I hope this information has been helpful. Please let me know if I can help further and please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Patrick Hynan
Computer Systems Manager
Baylor School of Engineering & Computer Science
(254) 710-4787