

Student Laptop Recommendations

Information Technology Services provides the following information to assist students with decisions about computer purchases. In general, most new or recently purchased laptops that students bring with them to Lander will meet the basic requirements for network connectivity on Lander University's wireless network, regardless of Operating System (Windows or macOS).

The following programs may have additional requirements for student computers/technology. In each case, the student should consult the department chair of their major department for details.

- Math and Computing Majors, including CIS, Cybersecurity, and Data Science Majors.
- Art, including Graphic Design.
- Nursing.

The Technology Resource Assistance Center for Students (TRACS) supports student laptops, mobile devices, and gaming systems on campus and should be a first stop for students needing help connecting to Lander's network or with questions about the configuration and function of computers. TRACS is located on the lower level of Jackson Library. TRACS offers limited short-term loaner laptops for students for up to two weeks, depending on availability.

Lander University participates in the Microsoft Student Advantage program which provides enrolled students with the full Microsoft Office Suite. This saves students the need to purchase this software separately.

These are the minimum recommendations for new computers connecting to Lander University's network:

CHROMEBOOKS: Chromebooks, HP Streams, and similar low-cost alternatives to a traditional laptop do not meet the Minimum Specifications for use as a primary computer by students of Lander University. *

WINDOWS:

Minimum Specifications	Recommended Specifications	Notes
12 th Generation i5	12 th Generation i7 or Better	
8GB RAM	16GB RAM or Better	8GB is not recommended over a four-year period.
256GB SSD	512GB SSD	
64-bit Windows 11	64-bit Windows 11	32-bit Windows is not recommended due to incompatibility with some optional programs that are used or required by faculty.
Gigabit Ethernet	Gigabit Ethernet	Adapter may be needed for some newer/smaller models.
Webcam – Either Integrated with Laptop or External *See note below*		

Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for expected life of computer strongly recommended. Laptop bag recommended.

APPLE/MAC (Recommended for Art and Design Majors):

Minimum Specifications	Recommended Specifications	Notes
M1 Chip 16GB RAM	M2 Chip 16GB RAM or Better	8GB is not recommended over a four-year period.
256GB SSD Monterey (Mac OS)	512GB SSD Ventura (Mac OS)	Older versions may not be able to join Lander's network to access resources.
Gigabit Ethernet	Gigabit Ethernet	Adapter may be needed for some newer/smaller models.
Webcam – Either Integrated with Laptop or External *See note below*		

Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for expected life of computer strongly recommended. Laptop bag recommended.

*Webcam Recommendations:

All students will need a webcam. If a student device does not include an integrated webcam, a USB webcam capable of capturing 1080p (full HD) at 30fps meets the minimum requirements. Examples of such webcams include Lifecam HD-3000, Logitech C920s, Logitech c310, and/or Logitech C930e.

VERY IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

If considering the purchase of an Apple (Mac) computer, students should understand that the macOS is appropriate and recommended for students in some disciplines, such as Studio Art and Graphic Design. Students should further be aware that older OS versions may not be compatible with testing applications and other software that they will be required to use. Some applications, such as Microsoft Office programs like Excel, function and are laid out differently on the Mac platform and require a specific version of the macOS. Students that plan to major in Business, Accounting, Science and/or Nursing will likely take many classes that require using these programs on a Windows platform. Students can access these programs on the Windows platform in the Computer Commons and other labs on campus, but they should be aware that some work may need to be completed in these areas if they choose to purchase or bring a Mac to Lander. Students should check with their academic or major advisor for additional requirements specific to their discipline.

*Chromebooks are a low-cost alternative that provide much of the same functionality as a laptop, but due to platform limitations should be considered a supplemental device, rather than a primary device. Incoming students should not expect to be able to complete all Lander coursework with one of these devices.

Students will need to also be aware that some super lightweight platforms (Surface Pro, MacBook Air, HP Stream, etc.) require extra hardware to load software from CD or DVD media. There may also be a need for adaptors if these devices need to be able to interface with Lander's network or be used in SMART Classrooms.

In addition, some of these platforms (HP Streams, for example) have very limited internal storage, which can cause significant issues after upgrading Windows and as a result ITS recommends against choosing them as a primary device.