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). Students should check with their academic advisor and/or anticipated major department for additional requirements.

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.

These are the minimum recommendations for 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
8th Generation i5	8th 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 10	64-bit Windows 10	32-bit Windows is not recommended due to incompatibility with some optional programs that are used or required by faculty.
DVD-R/RW (external ok)	DVD-R/RW (external ok)	Many laptops will not have this as a built-in option.
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.
250GB+ External Backup Storage.

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

Minimum Specifications 6th Generation i5	Recommended Specifications	Notes
16GB RAM	16GB RAM or Better	8GB is not recommended over a four-year period.
256GB SSD	512GB SSD	
Catalina	Monterey	
DVD-R/RW (external ok)	DVD-R/RW (external ok)	Many laptops will not have this as a built-in option.
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.

250GB+ External Backup Storage.

*Webcam Recommendations:

All students will need a webcam. For most students, an integrated webcam is enough. If students will need to use Echo 360, the two web cams that are currently compatible with that software are the Logitech c920 and the Microsoft Life Cam.

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. 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 we recommend against them.