

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/PC Platform or Mac OS).

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:

Windows

2.0 GHz Intel Core i5 Processor

6 GB RAM

250+ GB Hard Drive

Windows 10

CD-R/RW or DVD-R/RW

10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet (Standard on most models)

802.11b/g/n on laptops (Standard on most models)

Extended warranty plan, including accidental damage coverage, for expected life of computer (**strongly recommended**)

Bag to protect laptop, if applicable

250+ GB external Backup Storage

Lander University's wireless network does not allow connections by computers running Windows Vista or older.

Macintosh

2.0 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Processor

4 GB RAM

250 GB Hard Drive

OS X (10.10 - Yosemite) or newer

Gigabit Ethernet (Standard on all new models, except MacBook Air and MacBook Pro with Retina Display)

802.11b/g/n on laptops (802.11n standard on all new models)

AppleCare Protection Plan (**strongly recommended**)

Bag to protect laptop, if applicable

120 GB external Backup Storage

Chromebooks are a slightly less-expensive alternative that provide much of the same functionality as a laptop, but due to limitations should be considered a supplemental device, rather than a primary device.

Students will need to also be aware that some super lightweight platforms (Surface Pro, MacBook Air, 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.

If considering the purchase of an Apple (Mac) computer, students should understand that the Mac OS is appropriate for students in some disciplines, such as Digital Arts. Some applications, such as Microsoft Office programs like Excel, function and are laid out differently on the Mac platform. Students that plan to major in Business, Accounting, Science and/or Nursing will likely take many classes that require using these programs on a PC/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.