

Recommended Apple Models and Minimum Features

The College of Charleston fully supports the use of Apple computers by students. However, Apple only offers CofC students their standard educational discount; whether buying online (www.apple.com/edu/cofc), or at an Apple Store when presenting their CofC ID card--or other acceptable proof of student status--at the time of purchase.

For several years we have developed recommended student computer packages which contain minimum features, software, and accessories, etc. that, along with a printer of choice, will meet the needs of the majority of our students for academic work. The intent is to make student computer systems as affordable as possible without sacrificing performance. However, Apple advertising materials provided to us as handouts are based on Apple's sales criteria. The MacBook and MacBook Pro are the models we recommend, but, as advertised, they greatly exceed our basic recommendations and pricing intent. Also, several items considered essential in our student packages are classified as "popular options" or "recommended add-ons" and may be overlooked. Therefore, we have compiled the following list of features to guide you when purchasing an Apple computer. We emphasize these are recommendations only and that students are free to choose whatever model they prefer and configure it to meet their perceived needs.

Recommended Models

- MacBook with 13.3" Screen
- MacBook Pro with 15.4" Screen

Recommended Features

- Operating System 10.4 or greater
- 2.0 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo-processors
- 2 GB of random access memory (RAM)
- 120 Gigabyte hard drive
- CD-Read & Write/DVD-Read Drive
- Airport Wireless Card
- AppleCare Protection Plan (3 Years Extended Support)
- Microsoft Office for Mac
- Laptop locking cable
- ComputracePlus (Lojack) tracking service (3-year)
- Padded carrying case

Suggested Options

- Portable, external hard drive for backing up essential files and storing files not needed on the laptop's hard drive