

## Student Technology Requirements for Medical Students Technical Specifications

### Overall Requirements

The technology requirements listed below were designed with the many activities you will face over the course of the next 4 years. In many situations, you may have a more advanced laptop, which is acceptable as well. These are the requirements for both a Windows and Apple laptop for students who wish to purchase your personal laptop in a place other than the UTSW University Store.

### Requirements for a Windows Laptop

While tablets (including a Galaxy Tab, Sony Xperia...etc.), netbooks (computers with an Intel Atom or equivalent), Google Chromebooks, and Windows/Android phones are quality learning devices, they are not solely sufficient for the expected needs and do not meet the minimum requirements. Tablets, netbooks, chromebooks, and phones are not prohibited, but a laptop, as described below, is required. The Microsoft Surface Pro 4 and Microsoft Surface Go are acceptable provided they meet the requirements outlined below.

#### *Minimum Requirements*

- **Operating System:** Windows 10 Professional or Premium (Creators Edition is acceptable, Home Edition is also acceptable, though some students have experienced some issues)
- **CPU Processor:** 1.86 Ghz Intel Core 2 or greater (Intel Processor required)
- **Memory:** 4GB RAM (8GB or higher is strongly recommended)
- **Wireless:** 802.11AC or 802.11N
- **Hard drive:** 500 GB hard drive (or 128 GB for SSD hard drive)
- **Connections:** 1 USB 3.0 port, 1 Ethernet port/adaptor
- **Minimum Resolution:** 1024x768
- **Software:** Antivirus software (Sophos is recommended)
- **Security:** Privacy Screen

### Requirements for an Apple Laptop

While tablets (including iPads, large iPhones...etc.) are quality learning devices, they are not solely sufficient for the expected needs and do not meet the minimum requirements. Tablets and phones are not prohibited, but a laptop, as described below, is required. It should be noted that students **are allowed** to take UTSW quizzes and exams using an iPad, however a student-furnished laptop is needed for required NBME examinations (several throughout the 4-year medical student experience).

#### *Minimum Requirements*

- **Operating System:** macOS 10.14 Mojave (10.13 and 10.12 are also acceptable)
- **CPU Processor:** 1.8 Ghz Intel Core 2 or greater (Intel Processor required)

- **Memory:** 4GB RAM (8GB or higher is strongly recommended)
- **Hard drive:** 500 GB hard drive (or 128 GB for SSD hard drive)
- **Wireless:** 802.11AC or 802.11N
- **Connections:** 1 USB 3.0 port, 1 Ethernet port/adapter
- **Minimum Resolution:** 1024x768
- **Software:** Antivirus software (Sophos is recommended)
- **Security:** Privacy Screen

### **Additional Information on Software for Windows and Apple Laptops**

For the best experience, use Sophos (for antivirus) or Malwarebytes (for malware scanning). We have had poor experience with the antivirus applications listed below, as they negatively impact several crucial applications required in the first year. If you have the following antivirus software installed, please uninstall them before coming to campus.

- Avast
- Norton
- Kaspersky
- McAfee

It is strongly recommended that you do a scan of your machine for viruses (using Sophos) and malware (using Malwarebytes) before coming to campus. If the UTSW network detects a virus or malware on your system, your computer will be quarantined and you will not be able to access the Internet until your machine is cleaned.

### *Additional Information on Types of Laptops*

We have also discovered some laptops have more trouble than others on our campus. This doesn't mean these laptops won't work, just these brands have had more trouble and logged more service tickets:

- Acer
- Lenovo
- Sony VAIO
- Laptops labeled Windows High DPI (these are rare machines and typically used in gaming laptops)

We have had the **least** amount of problems with Apple computers and Dell-branded laptops.

## Laptop Requirements for Medical Students Frequently Asked Questions

### What are my options for meeting these requirements?

Students may meet these requirements in any one of the following ways:

1. Use an existing laptop and complete the laptop verification process
2. Purchase a laptop elsewhere and complete the laptop verification process
3. If the cost of purchasing a laptop “out of pocket” is difficult, you may utilize the University store purchase process to pay with financial aid

**To be sure all incoming students are prepared for the beginning of school, each must do one of the following by July 1, 2019:**

1. **Submit a completed laptop verification form by either**
  - [Submit the document on your own](#)
  - **Get help submitting the document by making an appointment for a virtual laptop review**
2. **Or, [place an order in the University store for a laptop](#)**

### What is the Laptop Verification Process?

**This process is only for laptops NOT purchased through the University Store.** If you have an **existing laptop** or **purchase a new laptop elsewhere**, then you **must** complete this process to ensure your laptop is ready.

To complete the Verification Process, you must select **one** of the **two** available options:

#### **Option 1: Submit your Laptop Verification Form yourself**

If you are confident that your laptop (purchased new outside the University Store or already existing) meets the specifications, initial each specification (on the form) and submit the form.

By submitting this form, you acknowledge your laptop meets all specifications and you are solely responsible if it is determined later that it does not meet all specifications. You also acknowledge that if it is determined later that your laptop is insufficient, you will need to upgrade your machine to meet the specifications or purchase a new laptop.

[You may complete and submit the Laptop Verification Form here.](#) (Link will open your browser.)

#### **Option 2: Submit your Laptop Verification Form with help from Student Support**

If you are unsure how to check your laptop for the correct specifications or you are not comfortable with Option 1, you may set up a virtual appointment with student support to check your laptop. For this appointment, a student support technician will log on to your laptop (once

you grant the technician access) and check for your laptop configuration. You will be able to watch the entire process to ensure no data is accessed that shouldn't be.

To schedule an appointment, contact the IR Service Desk at 214/648-7600 or email them at [servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu). With the technician's help, complete and submit the Laptop Verification Form linked in Option 1.

### **Does an iPad, Microsoft Surface, netbook, or Chromebook meet the requirements?**

The Microsoft Surface Pro 4 and Microsoft Surface Go are acceptable provided they meet the technical requirements.

The following devices are acceptable on-campus; however, they are not solely sufficient to meet your expected educational needs and **do not meet the minimum requirements**. This includes all:

- Tablets (including an iPad, iPad Pro, Galaxy Tab... etc.)
- Netbooks (computers with an Intel Atom or equivalent)
- Chromebooks
- iPhones or Android phones

### **Is a personal privacy screen required for my laptop?**

Yes. You are required to have a privacy screen for all examinations, quizzes, and other activities that require you to view sensitive material.

### **Is Linux supported?**

No. The laptop must either be an Apple or Microsoft Windows Machine.

### **I have additional questions before I select one of these options. Who do I contact?**

You should contact David Price, our student support specialist at [David.Price@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:David.Price@utsouthwestern.edu) and CC: the help desk at [servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu). They will serve as the first contact with the ability to inquire deeper on your behalf.

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### **Part 2: Can I use financial aid to purchase a laptop?**

Yes. You will be eligible for the funds regardless of where you purchase your laptop. As a matter of fact, an amount of \$2,500 is automatically included in the MS1 financial aid allocation for students receiving financial aid.

### **If I decide not to buy a laptop this year, is there anything I need to do regarding financial aid?**

You may want to decline \$2,500 of your financial aid award.

### **Do I have to purchase my laptop from the University Store if I am receiving financial aid?**

No. You will be eligible for the funds regardless of where you purchase your laptop. However, there are two advantages to purchasing your laptop from the University Store.

First, the University Store has agreed to accept payment for your laptop directly from the student financial office with one-half of the payment extracted from the initial financial aid disbursement and the remaining half from the mid-year disbursement. Of course, purchasing a laptop elsewhere will likely require payment in full at the time of delivery.

Second, financial aid funding does not become available to students until school starts. However, the University Store has agreed to facilitate the ordering of laptops from students with promised financial aid money. To purchase through the University Store, you will need to complete the form, linked above.

### **Do I have to take the full \$2,500 even if my laptop costs less?**

Absolutely not. You can decline any amount of financial aid, and you are strongly encouraged to borrow only what you need.

### **Is there anything else I need to know about financial aid and the purchase of a laptop?**

Yes. You can only get financial aid to buy a laptop **once** during your enrollment at UT Southwestern. If you get the loan, buy the laptop because subsequent loans will not be possible. If you don't plan to buy a laptop, don't take the loan. Also, be aware the aid will come in the form of loans. The implication is that you will want to borrow no more than the amount needed to cover whichever laptop purchase option you choose (buy UT Southwestern package, buy elsewhere, no purchase). This money will be available to you once during the pre-clerkship period. That is, don't borrow the money the first year and spend it on a trip to Hawaii instead of a laptop. When you realize later that you really DO need the laptop, the money is already spent.

### **Will I be able to lease a laptop?**

No.

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## **Part 3: What can I expect?**

### **What will be available and what software will I need?**

Material from most courses is available and will be accessible using an internet browser. As with all internet connections, the speed of access to the network will influence the feasibility of access. For example, on-campus Ethernet connection will be quicker than wireless. The same material is accessible using Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Apple Safari, but there may be slight differences in appearance. Other software used at the University will be

Microsoft Office, Outlook/Exchange E-mail, and Shared Folders (common areas of data storage that allow students to share data). Some proprietary software will be available on campus only.

By using Virtual Private Networks (VPN), students may configure their laptops while off campus to be “virtually” on-campus, allowing access to most material restricted to on-campus computers.

### **How do I keep my laptop safe and secure on-campus?**

Keep in mind the laptop you purchase is your property and is completely under your control. UT Southwestern has established standards to help you protect your equipment, but please be very cautious with your laptop on campus. Each student is responsible for ensuring that their laptop has current anti-virus (Sophos is the recommended anti-virus vendor, which will be provided free of charge to UT Southwestern students) and up-to-date operating system patches (automatic updates recommended).

While non-encrypted thumb drives are allowed for personal use (e.g. homework), it is encouraged that you consider using an encrypted thumb drive for all situations. Not only does it secure your personal documents, it also protects you if sensitive material accidentally gets saved to that thumb drive.

All students are pre-qualified to receive 1 encrypted 4GB USB thumb drive at no cost. They are available at the IR Data Hall, which is located on the first floor of the Bass Building (BLA 120). Your UT Southwestern ID Badge and signature are required for pickup. You are allowed one device per user; replacements are available for \$30 if the device is lost or stolen.

Security also involves the use of laptops in the context of the curriculum network. Computing and networking resources at UT Southwestern are protected by information security legislation. These resources must be used for University business. **Education is considered the business of students, so e-mail fraud and browsing inappropriate web sites are among the activities listed in the "no-no" category.**

You will be asked to sign a computer use policy and an information security agreement (ISA) when you register for class and each year you are enrolled thereafter.

### **How do I get help when I need support?**

The University staff will be easily accessible for problems. You will be responsible for obtaining hardware warranty services from the manufacturer. Computer and laptop support can be reached 24/7 by calling the IR Service Desk at 214/648-7600 or emailing them at [servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu).

**UT Southwestern strongly recommends a warranty for as long as you plan to keep the laptop.** UT Southwestern is unable to provide any hardware repair.

### **What happens if my laptop breaks when I am studying for an exam?**

There will be desktop computers available on campus at the Main Campus Library, the North Campus Library, and L2/L3 lab areas.

### **What happens if my computer breaks during an exam?**

On-site technical personnel will be able to assist, and if it is determined the laptop cannot quickly be restored, a backup laptop will be available on a temporary basis for the immediate need.

### **What about other devices?**

UT Southwestern does not support smartphones, but devices that support “wpa2 enterprise” should work on our campus wireless network.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Please visit the [Student and Postdoc web site](http://www.utsouthwestern.net/studentcomputing) for more information on the computing environment at UT Southwestern. For security reasons, you will not be able to access some pages such as software downloads until you have started classes. This page is only accessible if you are on our network or logged in with VPN. The web address is <http://www.utsouthwestern.net/studentcomputing>.

For questions regarding computer support, please contact the IR Service Desk at 214/648-7600 or [servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:servicedesk@utsouthwestern.edu).

For questions regarding use of financial aid in purchasing laptop, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 214/648-3611.

For questions regarding the purchase of laptops and Microsoft Office 2016 through the University Store, please contact Sarah Moreno at 214/645-6215 or [Sarah.Moreno@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Sarah.Moreno@utsouthwestern.edu).