

## Updated MSU Undergraduate Student Computer Policy

Michigan State University is dedicated to provide an outstanding educational experience for all our students, and to use engaging and innovative pedagogical approaches that support students' success in their academic progression and search for knowledge. In today's educational environment, technology serves as an important vehicle for delivery of content, collaboration, and communication both in and outside of the classroom.

Periodic review and updates to the university's Student Computer Policy are important to ensure MSU continues to provide the best possible learning experience and outcomes for our students. The recommended changes to the university's Student Computer Policy for undergraduate students include:

- Moving to the requirement of a laptop computer
  - Laptop computers are no longer substantially more expensive than desktop ones, and the availability of laptop computers will enable students to bring computers to the classroom for use.
- Updated minimum hardware and operating system specifications
  - Current processor, storage, and networking capability, and updated operating system support, is essential for a student's computer to be useful in the classroom.

The policy continues to allow individual colleges or departments to make more specific recommendations if appropriate for their programs.

The new policy is available at:

<https://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.aspx?Section=110#s135>

This update will provide faculty and students a common set of technology standards that will enable them to implement cutting-edge teaching and learning activities to deepen the understanding of materials and promote collaboration and communication.

## Student Computer Policy

All undergraduate students at Michigan State University are required to have a laptop computer that can connect to the Internet using a high speed connection. Many course sections are taught with the expectation that students use laptop computers in class. For each section where it is required, this is noted in the [Schedule of Courses](#). Therefore, a laptop computer provides expanded instructional opportunities for students.

All students should check with their prospective major college and department to determine if their program has specific computer requirements for their academic programs. Some programs strongly recommend using particular computer operating systems.

If there are no specific computer or operating system requirements for the student's program of study, then the student's computer may be any brand running most recent Microsoft Windows or MacOS. Students will want to be sure the computer will run the applications software, e.g., office applications, they will use for their courses. The computer must be able to connect directly to Michigan State University's campus network and the Internet using a high-speed Ethernet connection. The Michigan State University wireless network supports all current wireless communication protocols (i.e., 802.11a, g, and n. The 802.11n standard operates in both the 2.4 and 5 GHz frequencies.) MSU does not recommend students rely on tablet devices, mobile phones, or netbook computers (e.g., Chromebooks) as their primary computer due to software limitations.

It is crucially important that all computers be equipped with virus protection and firewall software, and that the software be installed and running prior to connecting a computer to the Michigan State University network. All students that utilize MSU resources such as network, campus labs, etc., are expected to abide by the MSU Acceptable Use Policy, found at <https://tech.msu.edu/about/guidelines-policies/aup/>.

Costs related to this requirement will be included in the calculation of financial aid eligibility for need-based aid or federal or private loans.

For the latest information on Michigan State University computing services, hardware, and software, visit [www.tech.msu.edu](http://www.tech.msu.edu).

### Recommended Minimum Hardware Specifications

- Processor:
  - Intel: Core i3 minimum, i5 recommended, i7 optional
  - AMD: Ryzen 3 Quad Core Minimum, Ryzen 5 recommended, Ryzen 7 optional
- Memory: 8 GB minimum
- Storage Capacity: 250 GB minimum