

University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences Student Laptop Requirement

Introduction

Many public health courses now utilize multimedia-based courseware, requiring students to have and use laptop computers, connected via a wireless network, in both the classroom and off site.

The mobile laptops, coupled with the wireless local area network at the University of Louisville, allow students to access web-based course materials anywhere in the expanding wireless coverage area. The technology is used to improve teaching and learning, and provide anytime/anywhere communications between faculty and students.

All students in degree seeking programs in SPHIS are expected to have a laptop computer throughout their curricula. Refer to Effective Date.

Effective Date

All newly admitted students to all SPHIS degree programs for fall 2009 will be required to purchase a laptop for use in the classroom and to complete assignments. Students admitted prior to fall 2009 will have until fall 2010 to meet the laptop requirement.

Technology Fee

The technology fee of \$100 per semester will be paid by ALL (including those in candidacy) students regardless of credit hour registration.

Thumb-drive

A 4G thumb-drive will be given to every new student for fall 2009. The thumb-drive is to ensure that students have a back-up of necessary documents. It is the student's responsibility to back-up any documents. SPHIS will not replace lost, stolen or damaged thumb-drives.

System Requirements – Minimum Specifications

SPHIS requires either a Microsoft Windows laptop or an Apple Mac book. Page 3 outlines the minimum system specifications for the laptop requirement.

Software You Will Need

The Microsoft Office Suite can be purchased through iT Express at a discounted rate of \$8 through the SPHIS Microsoft Campus Agreement.

The University provides a variety of free software. Several software packages can be downloaded from the "free software" section of the online store. If you desire to get free software on a CD, there will be a charge for the media. Software can be found at:

<http://louisville.edu/it/services/software.html>

We strongly recommend that you purchase your hardware and software from The University Computer Store, iT Express <http://louisville.edu/it/services/software> - click the students tab.

Maintenance

You are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of your operating system, antivirus and applications.

Loaner Computers

SPHIS will have a few loaner computers. If for some reason this is needed, please contact Jason Banta at Jason.banta@louisville.edu or 502-852-2489. Please plan accordingly. Last minute requests may not be able to be honored.

4/6/09

What if I have computer problems?

If you are experiencing difficulties with your computer or are having networking issues contact information technology (IT) at 502-852-7997 for free phone support.

iT Express has registered technicians for all major PC vendors who can provided technical assistance for a fee.

Minimum Required Specifications

Operating System	Windows XP Professional SP2 Vista Home Premium 32 bit Vista Business 32 bit Vista Ultimate 32 bit	Macintosh OS 10.4 or Above
Productivity Tools	Microsoft Office 2003/2007 (provided through MS Campus Agreement)	Microsoft Office for Mac 2004/2008 (provided through MS Campus Agreement)
Windows Emulation Software (check with academic advisor)	N/A	Parallels Desktop for Mac VMWare Fusion
Processor Speed	XP: Core Duo (not Celeron) VISTA: Core Duo (not Celeron)	1.83 Ghz
Memory	XP: 2 GB RAM VISTA: 2 GB RAM	2 GB RAM
Hard Drive	XP: 60 GB VISTA: 80 GB	60 GB
Graphics Card	XP: Integrated card VISTA: 128 MB Video memory	Integrated card
Wireless	802.11g/n	802.11g/n
Warranty	4 year parts and labor <i>(on-site strongly recommended)</i>	3 year parts and labor AppleCare
Insurance	Comprehensive breakage, theft, hazard <i>(strongly recommended)</i> <i>For more information, contact Safeware Insurance</i> <i>www.safeware.com 1.800.800.1492</i>	
Virus and Spyware Protection Software	Symantec Antivirus is provided by the University. For software and instructions please visit http://louisville.edu/it/services/software/students.html	

Optional:

- Modem 56k
- Extra Battery

Laptop Requirement Frequently Asked Questions

Do you recommend I purchase a certain type or brand of laptop?

The choice of what laptop to purchase or lease is yours. We recommend that you check out <http://louisville.edu/it/services/computers/student-purchases/> or <http://uofl.louisville.edu/it/opcenter/pc4me/>.

Can I bring an Apple/Macintosh laptop?

Yes. If you opt for a Mac, you may need to purchase a Windows emulation program (with an intel based processor) like Virtual PC, Parallels, or Bootcamp if you have to run specialized Windows software.

What if I cannot afford to purchase a laptop?

If you are concerned about being able to buy or lease a laptop, please read the Student Loan Program information at <http://uofl.louisville.edu/it/opcenter/pc4me/>.

As a benefit, the Student Credit Union offers loans for students who wish to purchase a computer. Get a Loan www.classact.org/ The Student Credit Union found in the SAC Food Court, 852-7321, provides this service plus many others to students, alumni and relatives, MTWR 9:00AM - 4:30PM, F 9:00AM - 5:00PM. To become a member, present a valid student ID, and picture ID, deposit \$25 to a savings account and keep a minimum balance of \$25 in your account.

Students may request that the Student Financial Aid Office factor the cost of their laptop purchase into their financial aid cost of attendance. Up to \$3000 may be considered every 4 years as long as the computer was purchased in the preceding summer or in the current fall and spring semesters of the academic year in which the request is being made. Proof of purchase is required.

The University has negotiated discounts from several computer vendors <http://louisville.edu/it/services/computers/student-purchases/>.

In an effort to make computer purchases more affordable, UofL and Dell Computers have formed an alliance to benefit the university community. UofL students, faculty, and staff can now purchase computers, peripherals, and selected software directly from Dell Computers at special discounted prices. You can configure your system to suit your academic needs and financial requirements. The information can be found at: <http://uofl.louisville.edu/it/opcenter/pc4me/>

What does my technology fee cover?

The technology fee covers the Microsoft Campus Agreement which allows you to purchase software at a discounted price, thumb drive and wireless access.

I already have a laptop; however it is 2 years old. Do I have to purchase a new computer to meet UofL SPHIS minimum specifications?

No, as long as your computer meets the minimum specifications required.

What about International versions of Windows XP?

Numerous security problems exist with non-English versions of Windows. In order to protect the network community at the University of Louisville, we require that all students have the English version of Windows XP Professional installed on their computers. Computers running a version other than the English version of Windows XP Professional will be denied network access. International students can use Microsoft's "Multilingual User Interface Pack (MUI), a set of language specific resource files that can be added to the

English version of Windows XP Professional. When installed, MUI allows the user interface language of the operating system to be changed to one of 33 supported languages.

What about Antivirus?

The University has purchased Symantec Antivirus for Windows and Macintosh for all student computers and it is available at no charge for download through the UofL web <http://louisville.edu/it/services/software/students.html>.

What are Windows Updates?

Windows Update is the online extension of Windows that helps your operating system stay up to date with the latest version by installing patches and updates for software compatibility issues, hardware drivers, and security exploits. It can auto detect exactly what your system needs and install them for you. It is especially important to install all "Critical Updates", as they are provided to help resolve known issues and protect your computer from known security vulnerabilities. Without doing so, you will be susceptible to potential intruders, viruses, and internet worms. It is a requirement for all students to set their "Automatic Updates" to ON so that daily updates can occur and help protect your system and others.

What is a Firewall?

A firewall is a piece of software or hardware that creates a protective barrier between your computer and potentially harmful content on the Internet. It helps guard your computer against hackers and many computer viruses and worms. Because of the increased number of viruses and operating system vulnerabilities, the University of Louisville requires that all mobile users enable the Windows "Internet Connection Firewall" on their laptop computers. For detailed instructions on how to configure the Windows Firewall see <http://louisville.edu/it/support/twotier/securexp.html>.

Important: The Windows XP Professional "Internet Connection Firewall" blocks certain types of potentially harmful network communication. However, it also blocks some useful network communication tasks (i.e. the sharing of files or printers through a network, transferring files in applications such as instant messaging, or hosting multiplayer games). For more information about Internet firewalls, please visit <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/protect/firewall.msp>.

There is also a download for UofL exceptions

https://apps.louisville.edu/software/eresales/customer/free.php?free_cat=5

What is laptop insurance and how can it help me?

Laptop insurance is an independent insurance policy that covers theft, fire, power surges, accidental damage, natural disasters, vandalism, earthquake, lightning, keyboard spills, shattered screens and other mishaps. This is really important as mishaps occur! The University is not responsible for loss or damage to your laptop, so we strongly encourage you to obtain laptop coverage. All manufacturers now offer complete accidental care warranties for purchase. Some homeowner's policies provide laptop coverage. One company that provides laptop insurance policies is Safeware and can be reached at 1-800-800-1492 or <http://www.safeware.com/>. In addition, most PC manufacturers offer accidental damage protection for an additional charge.

Do you have the ability to backup my data?

It is critical to backup your documents. When your computer experiences technical difficulties, there is always the chance that your documents will be damaged. You are fully responsible for your data backups. If your computer has to be serviced, you may lose valuable data. The 4G thumb drive you received can be used for backing up your documents.

How can I get technical support for my laptop on the UofL campus?

Before you come on campus, take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with your computer manufacturers support options. If problems occur, we recommend that you contact your hardware manufacturer first, because they are most familiar with your laptop. Being aware of your support options will save you time and money if the need arises.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your computer or are having networking issues contact information technology (IT) at 502-852-7997 for free phone support.

iT Express has registered technicians for all major PC vendors who can provide technical assistance for a fee.

What is Spyware?

Spyware is Internet jargon for "Advertising Supported software" (Adware). It is a way for free software / shareware authors to make money from a product, other than by selling it to the users. According to the National Cyber Security Alliance, a recent study showed that 91 percent of the participants unknowingly had spyware loaded on their systems. The possible effects of having spyware loaded include consistent Internet pop-ups, degradation of system performance, system instability and data transfer of personal information.

Here are some quick tips to limit your exposure to Spyware:

1. Limit your downloads. Any downloads, whether they are from a website or a peer-to-peer program, have the potential to install spyware programs.
2. Do not open email attachments from unknown senders.
3. Do not browse to unsafe websites such as warez and adult sites.
4. Do not click on internet pop-up advertisements.
5. Do not install software such as peer-to-peer, gambling, search toolbars, screensaver, or download accelerator programs, as most of these may be free, but usually contain hidden spyware.

Symantec Antivirus is available at no cost to students, incorporates an anti-spyware solution. Other recommended programs include Ad-Aware and Spybot Search & Destroy. Be careful of fake anti-spyware programs that are free, but are just a disguise for malware.

Recommended Vendors

The University of Louisville 2009 - 2010 recommended PC Laptop Manufacturers are Apple, Dell, and Lenovo. Product information can be found at <http://louisville.edu/it/services/software/>

If purchasing through retail companies such as Best Buy or Circuit City, please be sure to purchase either Windows XP Pro, Windows Vista or Media Center Edition. SPHIS recommends upgrading your length of warranty on the laptop to cover the duration of your stay at the university.

Students with Disabilities

All SPHIS degree seeking students are required to have a laptop. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Student Services if special software is needed to accommodate the disability. Student Services will work with the student and the UofL Disability Resource Center to determine the best way to meet the student's need.