

University of Calgary Schulich Computer Requirements

The Schulich School of Engineering recommends all undergraduate students enrolled in an engineering program to have a laptop. The information provided in this guide is to help you purchase a computer that can be used throughout your degree, **it is not mandatory to purchase a computer with the exact specifications mentioned below.**

The table below will breakdown the typical tasks an engineering student will perform over the course of their degree. The letter grade will suggest how important each computer component is for each task, allowing you focus on making the most appropriate purchasing decision.

Engineering Student Tasks	Tablet	Laptop	Desktop	CPU	GPU	RAM	Storage	Screen Size
Web Browsing	A	A	A	C	C	C	C	C
Taking Notes	A	A	B	C	C	C	C	B
Writing Reports	A	A	B	B	C	C	B	B
Programing	C	A	A	B	C	B	B	B
Simulations	C	A	A	A	B	A	B	C
CAD	C	A	A	A	B	A	B	C

(A = most important, B = somewhat important, C = not very important)

Faculty Standard Laptop Configuration

As of Spring-Summer 2022, the faculty recommends the following **minimum** specifications for laptops; all U of C students have access to OneDrive (1 TB) and Office 365:

- a minimum 12-inch display
- Intel i5 processor/Ryzen 5 processor
- 8 GB Ram
- 128 SSD hard drive
- Webcam
- Microphone

The following is the **recommended** specifications for a laptop; all U of C students have access to OneDrive (1 TB) and Office 365:

- a minimum 15-inch display
- Intel i7 processor/Ryzen 7 processor
- 12 GB Ram
- 256 SSD hard drive
- Webcam
- Microphone

Students are responsible for their laptops and data; the university and faculty take no responsibility for lost, stolen, broken devices or data. The university will not service broken machines. It is highly recommended that students always save data (e.g. course packages, notes, assignments) to their OneDrive or other remote system to prevent data loss.

Buying a Mac?

Some programs that are used in engineering programs may be Windows-only applications. You have a few options: Boot Camp comes with every new Mac, and it lets you run Windows natively-as if your Mac were a PC. If you want to run Mac OS X and Windows side by side, you can purchase Parallels Desktop for Mac or VMware Fusion. Install one of these applications, along with the Windows Installation CDs, and you can run the occasional Windows program right next to your Mac applications, without having to restart.

However, Mac is not recommended for computer-aided design/drafting software, which many engineering programs require; Windows 10 is highly recommended for CAD software.

Please note the newest Mac computers that have the M1 & M2 chips will not be able to run windows unless you use third party software.