



GUIDE TO PURCHASING A NEW COMPUTER

The following information is provided to you as a service of the Office of Computing and Communications Services (OCCS) and the **University Advisory Committee on Technology (UACT)**.

What type of computer system does Old Dominion University recommend?

OCCS and the UATC have developed recommended configurations for desktop and laptop computers as a guide for purchasing computers for use at Old Dominion University. Additional information is available via the Student Services link on the OCCS webpage. Specifications are provided for mid-range and high-range laptops and desktop systems for both PC and Macintosh platforms. *Please note that all University academic computer labs are PC-based.*

OCCS advises that you follow the recommended configuration of the academic colleges and departments to meet curriculum requirements. If your college does not have a specific recommended computer configuration, OCCS recommends considering either of the following two options:

- Purchase the most powerful computer you can reasonably afford. This will ensure that it continues to meet the minimum requirements throughout your academic career at Old Dominion University.
- OR
- Plan on a technology refresh after the end of the second year or the middle of the third year. Initially purchase the recommended mid-range system and then plan to upgrade mid-way through your academic career. It is extremely important to check with the college and academic department on the recommended configuration.

The University Technology Store, located in Webb Center on the Norfolk Campus and online at www.odu.edu/techstore, is your source for information on vendors offering special discounts for University students.

Should I buy, lease or finance?

To provide a full range of options to students, vendors generally offer financing and leasing options. With any purchase, read the fine print before pursuing a lease or finance plan. You need to understand all the rules and obligations.

Should I purchase a PC or a Macintosh?

All University public computing labs and most of the academic computing labs are PC-based. It is extremely important to check with the college and academic department before considering purchasing a Macintosh system.

Should I purchase a laptop or a desktop?

Students should examine their computing needs and habits to determine whether a desktop or laptop computer best suits their needs. Laptops provide students with the flexibility of using the computer almost anywhere. Desktop computers offer larger viewable monitor options and more computer for the dollars spent. It is extremely important to check with the college and academic department on the recommended configuration.

What warranty/support plan should I purchase with my system?

Please note that OCCS does not provide support for the installation, repair, or maintenance of hardware or the installation and configuration of software (including the operating system) on personal systems. For hardware, it is recommended to purchase a three-year, on-site warranty with the system. The University has negotiated a contract with ESI to provide service and repairs at reduced cost to students. The MONARCH techstore is your point of contact for ESI or you may call (757) 497-8088.

For support with accessing the Old Dominion University network and resources, students may contact the OCCS Customer Service Center at 683-3192 or occs-help@odu.edu.

What options should I consider?

Modem or Network Card

If you plan to use the system off-campus, a modem is necessary. The modem standard supported by Old Dominion University and the Internet Service Provider (ISP) partner, Access Technology, is 56K V.90. If you plan to use the system in the University dorms, a network card is necessary. The recommended Ethernet card is a 10/100Mb PCI card (you must have an available PCI slot in your machine).

Monitor

When considering larger monitors, get the physical dimensions and measure the planned location. Monitors larger than 17" may limit desk space, especially in dorm rooms.

Storage

Hard Drives: Larger hard drives make it possible to install more applications without having to remove old applications to free up space. Check with the vendor on the cost increments to upgrade the hard drive.

External Storage: You may consider purchasing a Flash drive. The Flash drive provides a great way to backup data from the hard drive and use files from your personal system in the University public labs. All of the PC workstations in these labs are equipped USB ports so that they are Flash drive accessible.



Recommended PC Configurations -

Entry-Level Laptop

CPU:	Intel Pentium M 1.73GHz - Centrino
Ram:	512MB DDR II SDRAM minimum
CD-ROM:	CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
Sound:	Soundblaster 16 compatible
Video display card:	64MB video RAM
Video display:	14 inch XGA display (1024x768)
Hard disk:	40GB
Modem:	56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network:	10/100 Base-T Ethernet
Mouse:	USB optical mouse
Keyboard:	USB keyboard
Operating System:	Windows XP Professional

High-Range Laptop

CPU:	Intel Pentium M 2.13GHz - Centrino
Ram:	1GB DDR II SDRAM
CD-ROM:	DVD +/- RW
Sound:	Soundblaster 16 compatible
Video display card:	128 MB video RAM
Video display:	15 inch UXGA display (1600x1200)
Hard disk:	80GB
Modem:	56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network:	10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
Mouse:	USB optical mouse
Keyboard:	USB keyboard
Operating System:	Windows XP Professional

Mid-Range Laptop

CPU:	Intel Pentium M 2GHz - Centrino
Ram:	512MB DDR II SDRAM minimum
CD-ROM:	CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
Sound:	Soundblaster 16 compatible
Video display card:	64 MB video RAM
Video display:	15 inch SXGA+ display (1600x1200)
Hard disk:	40GB
Modem:	56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network:	10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
Mouse:	USB optical mouse
Keyboard:	USB keyboard
Operating System:	Windows XP Professional

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES: (OPTIONAL)

- Computer security cable
- Notebook backpack or carrying case
- USB 4-port hub
- Docking station or port replicator
- Wireless keyboard and mouse
- Internet security software (firewall, pop-up blocker, anti-virus, anti-spyware/adware)

Entry- Level Desktop System

CPU: Intel Pentium 4, 2.4 GHz
Ram: 256 MB DDR minimum
CD-ROM: CD-RW Drive
Sound: Soundblaster 16 compatible
Video display card: 32-64 MB Video Card
Video display: 17 inch LCD or CRT flat screen monitor
Hard disk: 40 GB
Modem: 56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network: 10/100 Base-T Ethernet
Mouse: USB optical mouse
Keyboard: USB keyboard
Operating System: Windows XP Professional
Software: Norton Internet Security

Mid-Range Desktop System

CPU: Intel Pentium 4, 2.8 GHz w/ Hyperthreading
Ram: 512 MB DDR minimum
CD-ROM: CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
Sound: Soundblaster 16 compatible
Video display card: 64-128 MB Video Card
Video display: 17 inch LCD or CRT flat screen monitor
Hard disk: 80 GB SATA
Modem: 56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network: 10/100 Base-T Ethernet
Mouse: USB optical mouse
Keyboard: USB keyboard
Operating System: Windows XP Professional

High-Range Desktop System

CPU: Intel Pentium 4, 3.4 GHz w/ Hyperthreading
Ram: 1 GB
CD-ROM: CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
Sound: Soundblaster Audigy or Live!
Video display card: GeForce 6600GT, ATI X600 or equivalent
Video display: 19 inch LCD or CRT flat screen monitor
Hard disk: 120 GB SATA
Modem: 56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network: 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
Mouse: USB optical mouse
Keyboard: USB keyboard
Operating System: Windows XP Professional

Recommended: Internet security software
(firewall, pop-up blocker, anti-virus, anti-spyware/adware)

Recommended Macintosh Configurations

Mid-Range Laptop

CPU: iBook 1.33 GHz PowerPC G4
Ram: 512 MB DDR266 SDRAM
CD-ROM: CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
Sound: Built-in sound
Video display card: ATI Mobility Radeon 9200
Video display: 14 inch TFT display (1024x768)
Hard disk: 60 GB Ultra ATA drive
Modem: 56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network: 10/100 Base-T Ethernet
Mouse: Apple USB
Keyboard: Apple USB
Operating System: MacOS 10x
Recommended: AirPort Extreme built-in

High-Range Laptop

CPU: Powerbook 1.5GHz PowerPC G4
Ram: 1 GB DDR333 SDRAM
CD-ROM: CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
Sound: Built-in sound
Video display card: ATI Mobility Radeon 9700
Video display: 15.2-inch TFT display (1280x854)
Hard disk: 80 GB
Modem: 56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network: 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
Mouse: Apple USB
Keyboard: Apple USB
Operating System: MacOS 10x
Recommended: AirPort Extreme built-in

Mid-Range Desktop System

CPU: iMac 1.6 GHz PowerPC G5
Ram: 512 MB DDR400 SDRAM
CD-ROM: CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
Sound: Built-in sound
Video display card: NVIDIA GeForce FX 5200 Ultra
Video display: 17 inch LCD or CRT flat screen monitor
Hard disk: 60 GB Ultra ATA hard drive
Modem: 56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network: 10/100 Base-T Ethernet
Mouse: Apple USB
Keyboard: Apple USB
Operating System: MacOS 10x

High-Range Desktop System

CPU: Power Mac Dual 1.8 GHz PowerPC G5
Ram: 1 GB DDR400 SDRAM
CD-ROM: SuperDrive
Sound: Built-in sound
Video display card: GeForce FX 5200 Ultra
Video display: 19 inch LCD or CRT flat screen monitor
Hard disk: 80 GB Serial ATA
Modem: 56K – V90 (for off-campus students)
Network: 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
Mouse: Apple USB
Keyboard: Apple USB
Operating System: MacOS 10x