

# EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCOMING COMPUTER SCIENCE, DATA SCIENCE & BIOINFORMATICS STUDENTS

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Welcome to Baylor!

Incoming Computer Science, Data Science and Informatics students are required to have a laptop computer. While the type of computer is a personal choice, we recommend a system with the following **minimum** configuration:

- Multi core processor
- 16GB+ of system memory
- 500GB or larger hard drive (SSD highly recommended)
- Support for OpenGL<sup>1</sup>
- An 802.11an or better wireless network card
- Web camera and microphone

## **Required Laptop OS: macOS 13.0+ or Windows 11/10\***

*\* Includes x86 32 and 64bit processors and ARM 64bit processors using x86 emulation. Windows 10/11 "S mode" is not a compatible operating system. Windows 10/11 "SE" is currently not a compatible operating system. Keep in mind that Windows 10 will be end of life in October 2025.*

Baylor University has existing relationships with Apple and Dell to extend educational discounts to our students. More information on the products and discounts they offer can be found in the personal purchases at <https://helpdeskplus.web.baylor.edu/hardware/technology-purchasing><sup>2</sup>. Baylor also provides [AirBear](#) wireless networking in most academic buildings and common areas to allow students to use portable devices wherever they wish to work.

As a Baylor student, you will have access to software for use on personal systems including Microsoft's Office 365 at no additional charge. More details on the software available to all Baylor students can be found at <https://helpdeskplus.web.baylor.edu/software><sup>2</sup>. Most of the Computer Science specific software used is freely available for download, allowing students to configure a system similar to the computers available in departmental provided labs. Details on these specific packages will be discussed as part of your classes.

Other helpful links:

- Baylor Helpdesk+ (<https://helpdeskplus.web.baylor.edu/hardware>)
  - Provides links to computer hardware discounts, details about personal computer repairs and campus wide printing information via PawPrints.
- Home software for students (<https://helpdeskplus.web.baylor.edu/software>)
- New Student Websites:
  - Baylor Libraries' (<https://library.web.baylor.edu/newstudent>)
  - Baylor ITS (<https://helpdeskplus.web.baylor.edu/newstudent>)
- The Baylor Bookstore (<http://www.baylor.edu/bookstore/>)
  - Bookstore staff may be able to provide assistance with software selection and installation.

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<sup>1</sup> Support for OpenGL requires a graphics co-processor. This may be a dedicated graphics card, a co-processor imbedded on the motherboard, or integrated in the main cpu.

<sup>2</sup> Access to these pages may require your Bear\_ID to view the details so make sure you have that set up first.