

## Computer Recommendations:

Owning your own computer is not required at RIT, however it can be a very useful tool to have. Here are the minimum recommendations from the Chemical and Biomedical Engineering departments.

### Laptop or Desktop:

Laptops are great because they are portable and there is great coverage on campus for wireless networking. However, laptops are more likely than desktops to be accidentally left somewhere. If you choose a laptop, remember that a bigger screen often means a heavier unit.

Desktops tend to give you more power for your money. They generally have a faster CPU and can have more internal devices. They are also more upgradeable, but obviously lack the portability afforded to you by a laptop.

In the judgment of the Chemical Engineering department, portability is more important than the advantages that desktops bring. It is essential for students to customize their workspace, and get away from noisy dorm rooms if needed. For this reason, the department does recommend laptops.

### Mac or PC:

PC is recommended for compatibility purposes, but experienced Mac users generally are able to navigate most courses without a problem.

### Minimum Recommendations for a PC System:

Laptop		Desktop	
<u>Processor:</u> Pentium M/Core AMD Intel	1.6 GHz 2+ GHz Core i5, i7	<u>Processor:</u> Intel Core 2 Duo AMD Athlon X2	3.0 GHz 2.6 GHz
Memory	3 GB	Memory	4 GB
Hard Disk	320 GB	Hard Disk	500 GB
Video Memory	128 MB	Video Memory	1 GB

If you are an Apple user, most current machines are acceptable. The new Intel-based machines are particularly nice in that a user can run both OSX and Windows on them.

### 64 Bit vs. 32 Bit:

64 bit computers are fast, but at this time, a little overkill for most users needs. You really need 64 bit applications to take advantage of the system resources, and standard 32 bit applications will run slower on a 64 bit operating system. Therefore, a 32 bit operating system is recommended unless there is some specific reason to go with a 64 bit operating system.

Apple and Dell computers are available for purchase with a student discount through RIT's Digital Den (<http://www.rit.edu/fa/digitalden/>). You will be required to log in using your RIT DCE account.