

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

College of Engineering

Laptop Ownership Policy

All students enrolling in any undergraduate program offered by the College of Engineering are required to own a personal laptop computer system that conforms to the current School minimum published standards. This is a one-student one-machine requirement.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the laptop policy is to assure that all students in the College of Engineering have adequate access to computing resources.

II. Hardware Requirements

The following are minimum specifications for the laptop computer a student should purchase.

Processor:	Intel Pentium 4 or Celeron 2.8 GHz +, Intel Pentium-M 1.6GHz+, or AMD Athlon XP 2400+
Hard Drive:	40 GB or greater
CD ROM:	24X or greater , CD-RW recommended
RAM:	256 MB minimum, 512 MB to 1 GB recommended
Network:	Wired Ethernet 10/100BaseT required. Wireless 802.11B/G required, (built-in or via PC Card adapter.) <i>The College of Engineering has a wireless 802.11B and G network.</i>
Modem:	56K V.90 (not required)
Cabling:	Phone and Ethernet patch cables
Case:	Carrying case to protect the laptop

The estimated initial cost for this computer is in the \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 range. Many suitable brands are available. Carefully consider service and support options as **laptop maintenance is the responsibility of the student**. You may optionally pay extra for a service plan which will replace or repair your laptop the next day instead of weeks. This is highly recommended.

These are minimum specifications. Students may wish to add other equipment to their system. One obvious addition should be a laptop case. A “**USB key**” drive as an alternate means of moving large files can be very useful too. Other options include a

printer, or an external USB hard drive and floppy disk drive – some ultra-portable laptops lack a built-in floppy.

Many locations on the campus are equipped with "wet ports" for student use. Our labs include an AC power outlet and Ethernet 10/100BaseT connector.

SPECIAL PRICING ON TOSHIBA LAPTOPS GovConnection a premier partner of IT Solutions for Government and Education, has partnered with TOSHIBA and the USA Bookstore to offer special pricing on laptop computers and a tablet PC.

III. Software Requirements

Software requirements can be divided into two major areas: general productivity and course specific.

General Productivity:

- Microsoft Windows XP Professional (*not* Home) or Microsoft Vista
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint) *Academic-pricing is available.*
- World Wide Web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, Firefox)
- Anti-Virus (Norton, McAfee, AVG, etc.)

Students using alternate open source tools such as Linux or OpenOffice are still responsible for courses that require use of specific Microsoft applications.

Course Specific:

Each engineering department will require course specific / department specific software. As students move through our curriculum, some classes may require additional course specific software. This software will be readily available through the USA Bookstore or other sources.

Other Sources:

Some programs are available through the specific college department if licensing provides for classroom and instructional use. Other software may be available for evaluation used through individual software companies or through such agencies as the Microsoft Academic Alliance program.

IV. Ownership Program

Proof of Ownership:

To ensure that each entering student has a laptop, we will register your computer when you come to class. Each student will bring their laptop to class and provide information that it meets our requirements.

What to Expect:

Some professors will indicate when you should bring your computer to class for activities. Students may choose to use their computer to take notes in appropriate situations.

Use of the computer is mandatory in labs. Many activities have been designed to facilitate learning by working through problems using the tools of the class. The lab assistant will provide guidance and assistance through these activities.

Some professors may require use of the computer during testing and examinations. It is your responsibility to come to class with your computer prepared to participate as required.

Academic Misconduct:

The use of computing technology makes cheating "easier." Some might be tempted to copy work from one student to another. This is academic misconduct or cheating and not tolerated. Copying material from other sources such as the library and the Web and submitting it as your own is also misconduct. Each class outlines the cheating policy for the course. In general, cheating will result in failure in the class for all involved parties.

Copying Software:

The University and School policy is clear and enforced. We adhere to all copyright laws for all software. Students must have valid versions of the software on their machines. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary or legal action. Students are encouraged to read and understand the *University Student Computer Policy* as outlined in the current **Lowdown**.

V. Financial

The actual cost of the computer you purchase will depend upon what and when you buy. The prices of computers and software change rapidly. As a new student you must have your computer before you start classes.

Financial Aid:

Meet with a counselor in Financial Aid to discuss your options.

Student Loans:

Meet with a counselor in Financial Aid to discuss your options.

University Credit Union:

The University Credit Union will make loans for computer purchases upon credit approval. Contact the University Credit Union for current plans and rates.

Vendor Credit:

Many computer vendors offer lease and credit terms when purchasing their equipment. Contact your vendor directly for more information.

Other Sources:

Don't overlook your "home town" bank as a source for personal loans.

VI. Important Numbers & Addresses

Campus Bookstore

Website	http://www.southalabama.edu/bookstore
E-mail	mailto:usabookstore@usouthal.edu
Phone	251-460-7012
Hours	M-T: 8am-6pm, W-F:8am-5pm

Financial Office

Website	http://www.finaid.usouthal.edu
E-mail	finaid@usamail.usouthal.edu
Phone	251-460-6231
Fax	251-460-7024
Hours:	M-T, R-F: 8am-5pm; W:8:30am-5pm

University Credit Union

Website	http://www.usafedcu.com
E-mail	N/A
Phone	251-706-0255
Fax	251-706-0299