Computer Recommendations

What Kind of Computer Should I Bring?

Students are not required to buy their own computer at WPI as the campus is equipped with many computer labs, and computers to loan within the Library and Campus Center.

Planning to purchase a computer?
The following minimum configuration should meet your needs at WPI:

- Current generation Intel or AMD Processor
- Integrated Nvidia or Radeon Graphics Card*
- 8GB of RAM*
- 500GB Solid State Drive or 1TB Hard Drive
- Windows 10 or OS X (10.13 or higher)

*Additional RAM and a Dedicated Graphics Card may better serve your needs if your major will require graphic intensive software.

Should I bundle Microsoft Office and/or a printer into my purchase?
There is no need to bundle Microsoft Office as it is available to WPI students with active accounts for free. Public printers are available across campus but many students appreciate the convenience a personal printer offers. Personal printers will need to use a printer cable as they cannot be set up on the Wi-Fi.

Deciding between a Mac or Windows PC?
Price is often a factor in this decision making process. Most WPI students opt for a Windows-based PC because it is cost-effective and compatible with most academic software. For students choosing Apple/Mac systems, remote access servers enable use of a wide variety of academic software.

Deciding between a laptop or tablet?
A laptop computer or convertible tablet can be used for most work at WPI. It is important to consider the price of a laptop/tablet versus a desktop for the same performance. If a laptop/tablet lacks the resources needed for a particular project, computers are available in the public labs.

Mobile tablets (iPad/Galaxy Tab/Kindle) or Chromebooks are not recommended as primary computing devices because most academic software is not designed for these devices. Many WPI students use a tablet or other mobile device to supplement a laptop/desktop.
Computer and Software Purchase
Discount programs for computer purchases are available through the following companies:

- Apple
- Dell
- Microsoft
- Lenovo

Extended Warranty
WPI Information Technology Services (ITS) recommends students purchase an extended warranty with accidental damage coverage. For most students, a laptop is a 4-year investment and it will be important to maintain full functionality while at WPI.

Software Available through WPI
Academic software is available on campus at no cost via WPI’s network, including Microsoft Office.

Windows 10: Many of our academic softwares are available for installation on personal computers running Windows 10. Other applications are available on our remote access servers.

Macintosh OS X 10.13 and Greater: Because some academic software is not available for the Mac OS X platform, WPI makes software available via remote access servers.

Microsoft Office: WPI ITS offers Microsoft Office 365 for installation to all active student accounts, on all platforms, for free.

Anti-virus: Active WPI students can get 4 years of protection from Malwarebytes for only $5 by clicking or scanning this QR code

Service Desk Support
Located in the Gordon Library, the WPI Service Desk can assist students installing academic software, set up Wi-Fi access and answer other questions related to computer usage around campus.

Contact Information:
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