

BCoE Computer Requirements: 2014-2015

Minimum Configuration for Bagley College of Engineering Student Computers 2014-2015 Academic Year (Class of 2018)

These specifications are only for freshmen entering school during the fall 2014 semester. Transfer students should follow the specifications in place at the time they were freshmen.

Notes on Purchase of a Laptop

The information provided below is sufficient for you to purchase a laptop. We are not able to review individual systems, provide additional guidance on suggested vendors, or tell whether or not a specific model will work. If the laptop meets or exceeds the specifications below, there should be no issues. Please note the recommendation against purchasing Macs for engineering work. This is not bias but is based on experience. If you chose to ignore our recommendations, you do so at your own risk.

Minimum Hardware Specifications:

Platform: Laptop or notebook. Tablet PC's are discouraged for school work. Our faculty has determined they are too fragile for related activities.

Intel Core i5 processor or equivalent

6 GB RAM

250 GB Hard drive or larger

Video screen with resolution of 1600 x 900 is encouraged (higher resolution, 1920 x 1080, strongly encouraged, especially for those who think they may make extensive use of CAD software)

DirectX Compatible Video Card with 512 MB RAM (1 GB RAM encouraged for longer usability in graphics-intensive fields such as computer science)

IEEE 802.11g wireless capability (802.11n is encouraged)

Ethernet (network) card

1 GB minimum USB Flash Drive (thumb drive, memory stick, etc.) to allow easy transfer of files between computers

Required Operating System (OS):

Either Microsoft Windows 7 Professional or Windows 8 Professional, 64-bit versions.

Required Software:

All students will need access to Microsoft Office including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Industrial and systems engineering students will also need to have Microsoft Access. There are several ways for students to obtain these programs:

Purchase —

Office 2013 Home and Student

\$140 – perpetual license

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote

(Note: Not acceptable for industrial and systems engineering students)

or

Subscribe —

Office 365

\$80 – 4 year subscription

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, Publisher, Access. Licensed to install on two PC's

(Note: this is the only option for industrial and systems engineering Students)

Sophos Antivirus is available to students free of charge on the [university intranet](#) once they arrive on campus and should be installed as soon as possible. You may use another antivirus program, but antivirus software is required.

Recommended Optional Equipment:

Students are strongly encouraged to purchase an external, portable hard drive which can be used for computer backups and storage of large files. These are reasonably priced and available in various capacities. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of performing regular backups of important documents and keeping your backup in a separate location from your laptop. Should your laptop be lost or damaged, you will still have your important documents on your portable hard drive, which could then be used on another computer until yours is replaced or repaired. Lost or damaged laptops are not acceptable excuses for missing assignments.

We do not have specifications for printers. There are facilities on campus that will allow students to print, or students can purchase any printer of their choice from the multitude of vendors available. When/if purchasing a printer, remember to factor the cost of toner or ink into the total cost of ownership.

Use Of Macs:

Some of the software used in engineering is incompatible with the Apple Macintosh Operating System and Mac versions of the software are not available. Should a student choose to use a Mac they will need to ensure it has the appropriate microprocessor and will need to purchase the Windows 7 Professional Operating System and additional versions of any software they wish to operate in both Mac and Windows 7 operating systems. Due to the additional costs involved, the lack of Mac support in the college, and the potential for software incompatibilities, we DO NOT recommend the use of Macs. Students who choose to purchase one should have no expectation of support and will assume full responsibility for ensuring they are compatible with Windows 7 counterparts. We are also unable to provide any recommendations on the purchase of Macs.

Suggested Vendors

Through a special partnership agreement, the Bagley College of Engineering has worked with Dell to provide discounted pricing on Dell laptops that meet or exceed the college requirements. By clicking on the link below, you will be directed to a website that will allow you to select and customize a Dell laptop. This is provided as a service to our students and prospective students. It is not required that you purchase a Dell. [Click here to access your Premier Dell.com site.](#)

Be sure to review the minimum laptop specifications. If you have questions or experience any problems with Dell's pages, please call Dell at 1.866.257.4711.

Another option for computer purchases would also be HP. [Click here to visit HP's MSState page.](#) Again, it is not required that you purchase a Dell or an HP computer, this is just an option that we share here as a service to our students.