Laptop System Requirements & Supplies List

Here at the UIW School of Physical Therapy, we want our students to use devices familiar to them in an educational setting. The specs listed below have really become the standard and will allow your productivity to stay at a high level while being in line with ExamSoft's minimum system requirements. ExamSoft is our testing software.

Ultimately, we want you to be comfortable and familiar with the device you are learning with as you'll be collaborating with faculty and colleagues on a high level. Whether you have a device or are looking to purchase one, please look over the specs below for reference…

Windows:

- **Specifications can be found on the device through: Settings -> System -> About.**
    - CPU Processor: Quad-Core Intel i3 processor or equivalent.
        - ARM-based chips are NOT supported at this time.
    - Minimum 8 GB RAM (Memory)
    - Minimum 128GB storage (Should really be a SSD [Solid-State Drive])
    - Running '**Windows 10/Education/Home/Pro' - NOT 'Windows RT', 'Windows 10 S'** You can verify which version you are running here.

Apple - MacOS:

- Specifications can be found on the Mac by clicking on the Apple logo in the upper left of the screen, and then selecting '**About This Mac**'.
    - Any Mac (2016 or newer) running MacOS X Catalina (10.15) or later.
    - M1 Macs are fully supported.

Tablets:

- Microsoft Surface device (2017 or newer excluding the Surface Pro X line)
    - Products include the Surface Laptop and Surface Book. These are great products, but older models can be sluggish with newer versions of Windows.
    - Surface Pro X devices have ARM-based chips and are **NOT supported** by Examsoft at this time.
- **No iPads as your *primary* testing device, please. See FAQ for more info...**

Misc:

- If your laptop doesn't have an HDMI port, **you will need an HDMI adapter** to make sure your laptop can connect to an HDMI cable. This is for your breakout room!
- **You must have access to a webcam**. Whether it is built into your computing device, or an external USB plug-in webcam, that is up to you.
- **You must have access to a microphone**. Almost all laptops have a microphone built-in, but if yours doesn't or isn't of a comprehensible quality then I'd recommend purchasing a USB microphone.
- We provide the Microsoft Office Suite of Applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Teams) so there's no need to purchase a subscription or bundle beforehand.
- **No Chromebooks, please.**

FAQ's

Q: "I'm not very tech savvy and these numbers and jargon don't make sense. How can I be sure I have a device that meets these standards?"

A: Does your current device work in a manner that does not make you pull your hair out? Then, you are most likely fine! The specs above are very broad and have become the standard over the past few years, essentially acting as a baseline. If you have purchased an Apple or Windows device within the past 2-3 years, you should be fine… **except for Surface Pro X devices** excluded. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or doubts.

Q: "What's up with the microphone and webcam requirement? Will we be doing a lot of remote learning?"

A: I do not know for sure what the Fall curriculum has in store for y'all. However, 2020 has proven these will be essential learning peripherals in education, probably for the rest of your careers. Having this functionality will ensure that any potential transition from in-person to remote learning will proceed smoothly! *To be clear, you MUST have a working webcam and a microphone.*

Q: "Can I just use headphones w/ a mic if I don't have a microphone?"

A: For anything outside of your ExamSoft tests, absolutely! I'm not saying that you can't own headphones, you do you! If an exam is taken remotely, then it will NOT support headphones and if your primary device doesn't have a mic built in you will have to use a USB microphone.

Q: "You said no Chromebooks… I like my Chromebook, why can't I use it?"

A: Short answer is ExamSoft is *NOT* compatible, so you cannot take your exams on them. The slightly longer answer is Chromebooks run an Operating System titled 'ChromeOS', which does not always run applications with full feature sets. ChromeOS applications are either Android-based (mobile) apps, or web-based apps and neither of these are optimal at this level of learning.

Q: **"Also, you said no iPads or Surface Pro X devices… as your primary testing device'. Care to explain?"**

A: This one is complicated. Short answer is **ExamSoft is not compatible** with iPads or Surface Pro X devices. The slightly longer answer is… you *can* use these in your day-to-day learning, but you will NEED access to a device with the above specs to take your exams on. Regarding iPads, We have a handful of students that use their iPad/Pencil/keyboard combo for classes, but have a secondary laptop lying around that can be utilized to take tests on. Additionally Office365, Zoom, and other apps you'll be using are still *just* mobile apps on iPad. This means that various features will be missing and you will run into quirks here and there so please be familiar with these limitations.

Please contact the Saidoff Helpdesk with any questions about compatibility, use cases, etc.

Saidoff Helpdesk
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Monday – Friday, 7 – 4