

May 9, 2008

Dear name:

This message is to inform you of the computer ownership policy for the College of Engineering at the University of Tennessee. The policy has been in effect since the fall semester of 2003. As a freshman, you are not immediately affected by this policy; however, it is important for you to know this requirement now if you plan to purchase a computer this year.

Specific College of Engineering requirements are as follows. For fall semester of 2009, laptops will be required for sophomores, juniors, and seniors majoring in the programs of Aerospace, Biomedical, Chemical and Biomolecular, Industrial, and Mechanical Engineering. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors majoring in Computer Science, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Materials Science, and Nuclear Engineering may own either a laptop or a desktop computer. Minimum specifications for the desktop and laptop computers to be required in fall 2009 (when you will be a sophomore) are listed in the attached table. If you plan to purchase a computer before entering the College of Engineering this fall, you should choose a computer that meets or exceeds these specifications. You should choose a laptop computer if you plan to major in one of the programs requiring laptops, or if you are uncertain of your major. *Note that these are minimum requirements. You will likely want a computer that exceeds some of the requirements stated.*

If you wish to view example specifications for computers that meet or exceed the above requirements, please check the examples and prices at the UT Computer Store web site http://utbookstore.tennessee.edu/uccs/recommended_systems/engineering/. You may also view other configuration options, including custom configurations, at this link. Please note that computer prices and configurations change very quickly, and the web site will be regularly updated to reflect these changes. You are not required to purchase one of these models or to purchase from the UT Computer Store. However, we do recommend that your purchase include a three-year warranty service with local (Knoxville, TN) carry-in service or similar quick response support.

Please note that there is no requirement for incoming freshmen to own a computer. The requirement applies only to sophomores and above. Numerous computer laboratories are available on campus, and they can be used for required work during the freshman year. You will, however, need to purchase a computer before beginning your sophomore year.

The College recognizes that the computer ownership requirement may represent an additional financial burden. If you receive financial aid through the University's financial aid office, the cost of your computer can be considered as an additional cost of attending the university. Consideration of the added expense is not automatic. You must go to the

financial aid office and request an Appeal for Budget Increase form at the time you are required to purchase the computer (at the beginning of your sophomore year.)

The engineering faculty is working diligently to integrate computers more thoroughly into our curricula. It is our belief that this will enhance the quality of engineering education offered at the University of Tennessee and add significantly to your employment opportunities.

Sincerely,

Masood Parang
Associate Dean

Attach.

Minimum Recommended Hardware/Software Recommendations for Fall 2009 College of Engineering Sophomores

Items	Desktop Computer	Laptop Computer
CPU	Intel Compatible	Intel Compatible
RAM	2GB (preferably 1 stick)	2GB (preferably 1 stick)
Hard drive	160GB	160GB
DVD/CDRW	Internal or External	Internal or External
Internet Access	Required	Required
Wired Network	10 base-T network capability ¹	
Wireless Network		802.11b wireless network capability ²
USB	Two USB ports required	Two USB ports required
Operating system	Windows XP Professional or Windows Vista ^{3,4}	Windows XP Professional or Windows Vista ^{3,4}
Microsoft Office	Office 2007 Professional ^{4,5}	Office 2007 Professional ^{4,5}

Footnotes

1. Most new computers have built-in Ethernet networking capabilities. If your computer does not, you will need to purchase the network card. These cards are available from a variety of sources, including the UT Computer Store.
2. Most new laptops have wireless network capability built in. If yours does not, you will need a USB or PCMCIA wireless network card compatible with your computer. More information is available at the Office of Information Technology wireless information web site: <http://oit.utk.edu/helpdesk/section/Wireless/>. (You may also contact the help desk at 865-974-9900 or helpdesk@utk.edu.)
3. Windows Vista Home Basic Edition is not compatible with some programs used at UT.
4. These operating system and office software specifications are acceptable for students in Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Computer Science. However, other operating systems (e.g., Linux, Mac OS) and office software (e.g., Open Office) are equally acceptable for students in these three programs. Individuals considering unusual software configurations may wish to check with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science before purchasing.
5. Students may purchase the student version of Office 2007 from the UT Computer Store for \$75. This is significantly less than you would pay elsewhere.