WHO IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A LAPTOP?

First year students (both undergraduate and graduate) are required to have a laptop in their first semester. These recommendations are meant to serve as a guide to aid in your purchasing decision.

WHERE DO YOU GO FOR HELP?

If you have any questions, call or visit the NinerTech Computer Store (a great on-campus computing resource for UNC Charlotte students) located in the Student Union. NinerTech is your tech-savvy partner for life at UNC Charlotte. They are with you from choosing the right laptop for your major, to servicing malfunctions when you least expect them. Read more about why NinerTech is more than just the tech store. NinerTech carries everything that is recommended in this guide, customizes hardware and software bundles for students, and also offers sales and repair services for Apple, HP, and Dell computers. You may also contact the CoA+A IT Department by email at coaahelp@uncc.edu with any questions you might have.

DECIDING WHICH SYSTEM: MAC OR WINDOWS?

All (except one) of the computing labs in the Storrs building have Apple iMacs and all SoA faculty use Apple computers. Many architecture students have chosen to go with the 15” Apple MacBook Pro with Retina Display because you can run Mac and/or Windows on the same laptop. However, the department recommends that you select a computer that works best for your individual needs. Whichever computer you choose, you should try to match or exceed the specs for the machines presented in this guide. The NinerTech Computer Store can help you find the best solution for the SoA recommended configuration.
15” MacBook Pro with Retina Display

2.5GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 processor
   (Turbo Boost up to 3.7GHz)
   16GB Memory
   512GB PCIe-based flash storage
   Intel Iris Pro Graphics
   AMD Radeon R9 M370X
   with 2GB of GDDR5 Memory

$2,499.00 - $200.00 UNCC Discount

$2,299.00 + Tax

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<th>Complete Bundle</th>
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| • Adobe Creative Cloud 12mo Subscription |...
| • Seagate 1TB Ultra Slim Hard Drive | Minimum Bundle Price: $2,667.88 + Tax |

Complete Bundle Price: $3,101.87+Tax

*Models and prices are based on availability and are subject to change
Dell 15” Precision 5510*

15.6” UltraSharp UHD (3840x2160) TOUCH Wide View LED-backlit display
2.70 GHz Intel Core Quad-Core i7-6820HQ
(3.6 GHz Turbo, 8MB w/intel HD Graphics 530)
16GB Memory
1TB 2.5inch SATA Hard Drive
Nvidia Quadro M1000M w/ 2GB GDDR5 Memory
Windows 10 OS Professional
$1,999.00 + Tax

Non-touch screen model
$1,869.00 + Tax

Complete Bundle***
Includes above computer + following components:
• Ninercare 4yr protection
• 1 OEM copy Windows 10
• (FREE installation at point of purchase)
• Adobe Creative Cloud 12mo Subscription
• Seagate 1TB Ultra Slim Hard Drive
• Complete Bundle Price: $2592.87 +Tax

Minimum Bundle***
Includes above computer + following components:
• 1 OEM copy Windows 10
• (FREE installation at point of purchase)
• Adobe Creative Cloud 12mo Subscription

Minimum Bundle Price: $2,108.88 + Tax

This model is also available with a non-touch screen, slightly lower resolution (1920x1080) and anti-glare finish; can be bundled with the minimum COAA Student Solution
**Not a regularly stocked model and is available on an order basis
*** includes a 3 yr Warranty w/ accidental coverage
****Models and prices are based on availability and are subject to change
SOFTWARE

**FIRST Year Undergraduate and Graduate** students will need the following software:

- Microsoft Office which is available free of charge for all students. For more information see the [MS Office 365 software download](#) page.
- Adobe Creative Cloud ($239.88/ per year for student subscription).
- 1 OEM copy of Windows for use on Mac for Bootcamp $129 (if purchased with the computer it is installed free of charge).

**FIRST Year Graduate** students will need the additional software:

- SketchUp Pro ($49)

In the same way a textbook purchase would be required for a class, additional software purchases may be requested by individual professors or desired by students. By waiting to purchase software until it is needed, you will be able to purchase the most up-to-date version and not carry the burden of upgrading software the student may not have used. The university provides some free software for students registered for classes in the current term such as MS Office, Antivirus software, and a few more. For more information see the [ITS Services](#) software downloads page.

The following are applications available in the SoA computing labs and may be required by courses:

- Adobe Acrobat Pro
- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe InDesign
- Adobe Photoshop
- Design Builder
- ARC GIS

  Apple iWork
  Nemetschek Vectorworks*
  Autodesk 3DS Max*
  Autodesk AutoCAD*
  Autodesk AutoCAD* Microsoft Office*
  Autodesk Revit* Strand 7

*These applications are free to download for UNC Charlotte students.

**RECOMMENDED PORTABLE EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE**

Each Architecture student will be required to purchase a portable external hard drive. These drives will be required for all courses that use the computing labs. It has two important functions: 1) to store files that are used in the computer labs, and 2) to be used as a back-up drive for their laptop. Manufacturers such as Western Digital, G-Technology and LaCie are recommended (minimum size should be 750GB). Find out more at your NinerTech store.

Please note that the availability of items in the NinerTech store is subject to change. For more information regarding availability and options, please visit the NinerTech store located on the first floor of the Student Union or website. Representatives in the NinerTech store can help you find a suitable alternative if necessary. Everyone’s situation is unique and choices vary widely. Inquire at the NinerTech about a financing option or regarding the best way for you and your family to acquire your computer.
1st Floor, Student Union

**Monday – Friday** 9:00am - 5:00pm

704-687-7880  [ninertech@uncc.edu](mailto:ninertech@uncc.edu)

Contact the store for extended summer hours!