



## STUDENT COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

All students entering the Saint James School of Medicine are required to have a **laptop** computer at the time of matriculation. There are not, however, requirements in terms of model and manufacturer.

Please note that we will provide tech support service only to currently enrolled students whose laptops meet the minimum recommendations listed below.

These are the minimum and recommended hardware specifications for your laptop. In most cases newly or recently purchased laptops will meet or exceed the minimum specifications. The MINIMUM specs are what we feel will be the bare minimum configuration for your laptop. The RECOMMENDED specs are what we feel will be a more optimal configuration for your laptop. Feel free to exceed the recommended list if you are able.

**All laptops must be equipped with a privacy screen if privacy screens are required per the course syllabus.**

	RECOMMENDED	MINIMUM
Processor	8th Gen Core i7	5th Gen Core i5 or better (or the AMD equivalent)
Operating System	Windows 10 or later, Mac OS 10.13 or later	Windows 10, Mac OS 10.12
Hard Drive	500 GB or more SSD	250 GB
Memory (RAM)	8 GB or more	4 GB
Audio	Speakers and a microphone – built-in or USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth	Speakers and a microphone – built-in or USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth
Video	A webcam or HD webcam - built-in or USB plug-in	A webcam or HD webcam - built-in or USB plug-in
Screen	15 inch, 1980x1080p for resolution, privacy screen is required	13 inch+, 1280x720p for resolution, privacy screen is required
Wireless	802.11ac	Minimum - 802.11a,b,g,n
Supported Browser	Windows: IE 11+, Edge 12+, Firefox 27+, Chrome 30+ Mac: Safari 7+, Firefox 27+, Chrome 30+ Linux: Firefox 27+, Chrome 30+	Windows: IE 11+, Edge 12+, Firefox 27+, Chrome 30+ Mac: Safari 7+, Firefox 27+, Chrome 30+ Linux: Firefox 27+, Chrome 30+

- All of the instruction materials you are required to use will run under either the Macintosh or the Windows platform. The decision whether to purchase a Macintosh or Windows-based computer must be made by each student.



- Upgrade to Solid State Drive (SSD) on laptops offering SSD to improve performance, especially during startup. Upgrade to larger, high-speed (7200 rpm vs. 5400 rpm) hard drive for improved performance by allowing faster access to applications and documents. SSDs generally do not store as much as you can on a traditional HD, but are lighter and faster. Consider an external drive for storing more data.
- Upgrade to larger battery if weight is not a concern to increase the time laptop can be used without having to plug into a power outlet for recharge. Be aware that batteries degrade over time and must be replaced when run time is no longer sufficient.
- Purchase screen size approximately 13" to 15". A larger screen generally provides higher resolution and therefore more information on the screen at one time. If scrolling is a problem, then consider a computer with a larger screen. A full size keyboard is suggested, but going beyond a 16" screen is not recommended due to added weight, and finding a 17" laptop is becoming rare. This is your call, however, you have to look at it and you have to carry it around. Students are expected to bring their laptop to class for use in classroom activities. **All laptops must be equipped with a privacy screen if privacy screens are required per the course syllabus.**

**Tablets** (Apple's iPad, Samsung's Galaxy Tab, Motorola's Zoom, Windows Surface etc.) and **Netbooks** (super small laptops with limited memory and processing power) do not meet the minimum hardware requirements. That being said, a tablet can make your studying portable, and certain activities are easier on a tablet or smartphone than on a laptop.

In general, our students think that laptops are necessary, and that use of a smartphone and/or a tablet can be of (considerable) additional utility. Desktops are considered not necessary. **We can not recommend a tablet as your ONLY computing device.** There are still certain educational programs that will not operate optimally and/or the workflow of the learner does not support using a tablet completely.