University of South Alabama School of Computing
Computer Ownership Program
Revised 8/25/2022

I. **Purpose**
The purpose of the laptop initiative is to assure that all students in the School of Computing have adequate access to computing resources.

II. **Hardware Requirements**
The following are minimum specifications for the laptop computer a student should purchase. The estimated initial cost for this computer ranges from $1000.00 to $1500.00. Many suitable brands are available. Carefully consider service and support options as laptop maintenance is the responsibility of the student.

Component	Specification
Processor	Intel i5, i7, or i9 processors (8th generation or newer) which support Intel Virtualization Technology*
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 10 or Windows 11 (This can be obtained freely through the School's Microsoft Azure program**)
Hard Drive	1 TB or greater HDD (recommended) or additional external storage if using an SSD
RAM	16 GB
Network	Wireless 802.11ac (required) Ethernet 10/100/1000 (optional)
Cabling	Ethernet patch cable (optional)

* Note that Apple Mac M1/M2 processors are not compatible.

** Students enrolled in at least one course in the School of Computing have access to the School of Computer Microsoft Azure Dev Tools program. You can download Windows 10 for a fresh install. However, you cannot upgrade a version of Windows purchased commercially with this academic version. You can request and account and login to MSDNAA at http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/soc/msdreamspark.html

These are recommended minimum specifications. Students are responsible for ensuring that their systems meet the minimum specifications for the software required in their courses. Students purchasing systems which do not meet these minimum specifications may need to upgrade their systems before taking certain courses.

Students may wish to add other options to their system. One obvious addition should be a laptop case. A USB thumb drive is an alternate means of moving large files which can be very useful. Other peripherals include a printer or an external hard drive. Our labs and classrooms will include AC power.

III. **Software Requirements General Productivity**
- Microsoft Windows 10 or Windows 11. This can be obtained freely through the School's Microsoft Azure program (see above*)
- Microsoft Office 365 (can be downloaded for free for all students at https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/csc/microsoftoffice/
- Browser (Edge, Firefox, Opera, Safari, etc.)

- E-mail client (Outlook Express, Outlook, or web-based)
- Anti-virus (Norton, McAfee, AVG, etc.)
- Utility software (Winzip, WinRAR, etc.)

Note: Students using a Mac or an open-source operating system and tools such as Linux or OpenOffice are still responsible for courses which require use of specific Microsoft applications.

Course-specific Software

Students entering our programs will use their machine in the first programming class. The tools for the class are usually a combination of a language compiler and shareware tools. A free compiler can be downloaded or more advanced versions can be purchased from the USA Bookstore for less than $100.00. As students move through the curriculum, some classes may require course specific software. This software will be readily available through the USA Bookstore or other sources.

IV.   **Ownership Program: What to expect**

Some professors will indicate when you should bring your computer to class for activities. Students may choose to use their computer to take notes in appropriate situations. Use of the computer is mandatory in labs. Many activities have been designed to facilitate learning by working through problems using the tools of the class. Some professors may require use of the computer during testing and examinations. It is your responsibility to come to class with your computer prepared to participate as required.

Academic Misconduct

The use of computing technology makes cheating "easier". Some might be tempted to copy work from one student to another. This is academic misconduct or cheating and is not tolerated.

Copying material from other sources such as the library and the Web and submitting it as your own is also misconduct. Each class outlines the cheating policy for the course. In general, cheating will result in failure in the class for all involved parties.

Copying software

The University and School policy is clear and enforced. We adhere to all copyright laws for all software. Students must have valid versions of the software on their machines. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary or legal action. Students are encouraged to read and understand the University Student Computer Policy as outlined in the current Lowdown.

V.   **Financial**

The actual cost of the computer you purchase will depend on what and when you buy. The prices of computers and software change rapidly. As a new student, it is preferable that you have your computer before classes start, but you must have then within two weeks of the start of classes.

Financial Aid

Meet with a counselor in Financial Aid to discuss your options.

Student Loans

Meet with a counselor in Financial Aid to discuss your options.

University Credit Union

The University Credit Union will make loans for computer purchases upon credit approval. Contact the University Credit Union for current plans and rates.

Vendor Credit

Many computer vendors offer lease and credit terms when purchasing their equipment. Contact your vendor directly for more information.

Other sources

Don't overlook your "home town" bank as a source for personal loans.

VI. **Important Numbers and Addresses**

SoC Ownership Program

Website: https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/soc/laptoppolicy.html

E-mail: klynn@southalabama.edu

Phone: 251-460-7643

Fax: 251-460-7274

Campus Bookstore

Website: http://www.southalabama.edu/bookstore

E-mail: usabookstore@southalabama.edu

Phone: 251-460-7012

Financial Aid Office

Website: http://www.finaid.southalabama.edu

E-mail: finaid@usamail.southalabama.edu

Phone: 251-460-6231

Fax: 251-460-7024

University Credit Union

Website: http://www.usafedcu.com

Phone: 251-706-0255

Fax: 251-706-0299