

Buy New or Use Current PC: Otterbein has a minimum standards guideline for those using older computers. See “Computing Preparation” to evaluate a gently used PC: (Remove VPNs and proxy servers for networks to avoid connection problems.) New PC purchases generally are compatible and perfectly adequate. No need to add bells and whistles.

Desktop vs. Laptop or Mobile Device: Consider price, portability, wireless capability, ability to access technology resources, and computing or gaming needs.

Macintosh vs. Windows Personal choice and consider major of study and learning curve (e.g. Macintosh is more popular for digital media editing and production). Windows is more popular in the market share and most computers on campus are Windows machines including labs and classrooms. Both are compatible on the network. For Macintosh and iOS, install the free Firefox or Chrome Internet browser since Safari is not compatible with Blackboard. Download Firefox at [http://www.mozilla.com](#) or Chrome at [http://www.google.com/chrome](#). Macintoshes are less apt to get virus/spyware infections.

Major/Minor of Study: An example is a concentration in media design and production. This may require more storage, an upgraded video card and faster processor. Otherwise, do not be sold into frills, upgrades and extra warranties. Engineering students are required to purchase an Engineering laptop from Otterbein or meet hardware requirements in order to use the Engineering software for the program. See [http://www.otterbein.edu/its](#) for the required Engineering laptop choices.

Wi-Fi Compatibility: Not all tablets and mobile devices are compatible on our network. Must be able to “login” and join a WPA2 Enterprise network, not home/personal WPA2 network. Ask before you buy.

Price: Some major vendors offer academic pricing with student ID card or Otterbein email, but sale prices and rebates may be better deals. Be wary of extremely affordable non-brands. You do get what you pay for. See [http://www.otterbein.edu/its](#) for special offers for Otterbein students, which includes one-year manufacturer and [http://www.apple.com](#) warranty! For Macintosh users, visit the Apple Store: [http://www.apple.com](#) for any current deals. Otterbein University does not personally endorse any vendor more than another. We are informing you of buying offers made to Otterbein students.

Support Ask about service agreements and support – does the vendor offer a service plan online, phone, in-store? What is the warranty? So, look for ease of getting support for any purchase.

Free Microsoft Office and Windows 10: Get Microsoft Office Suite and Office 365 and Windows 10 FREE from Otterbein. [http://www.otterbein.edu/its](#)

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