



Computer Purchase Specifications

Computer Science and
Engineering
Department

This document is valid through May 2009

All Jefferson Community College Computer Information Systems, Computer Information Technology, Computer Science, and Engineering Science students are required to own a microcomputer for home use. Students in these curricula will find that owning a microcomputer will aid in doing homework and working on projects, as well as increase the student's level of computer literacy. ***Students are strongly encouraged to consider buying a portable computer with wireless network capability. The specifications for a portable would likely be somewhat lower than that of a comparably priced desktop system.***

This brochure is intended to provide you with the specifications for "acceptable" computer configurations when you are **buying** a new computer. These specifications are only applicable if you do not have access to a computer capable of running the latest version of Windows. *If you already have access to a Windows capable computer then you do not need to purchase a new computer.*

If you purchase a computer with these minimum requirements then you should not need to upgrade this computer for two to three years. Purchasing a computer that exceeds these specifications may also extend the time-span between purchase and the first significant upgrade. CPU speed, memory size, and hard disk capacity are the usual items that are upgraded over time. Therefore, if you are considering the purchase of a computer that exceeds these specifications then these items should be considered.

If you have any questions or concerns, the last page contains a list of JCC faculty and staff who are able to help you. Please feel free to contact any of these people.

Macintosh Option:

This option is included for those students who may prefer to purchase an Apple Macintosh microcomputer. These computers may be purchased directly from Apple Computer. Any students wishing to choose this option must consider purchasing additional software in order to run Windows programs with increased memory and hard disk capacity. This is a very attractive alternative for those students who wish access to both Windows and Macintosh software. **This option should only be chosen after consultation with JCC Faculty or Staff.**

Possible Vendors:

There are many local and mail order companies that can meet the specifications given in this brochure, and some of these vendors may provide special "student" prices. Specifically ask about "student" pricing and any qualification requirements that may apply.

Minimum Windows PC Requirements:

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|---------------------|---|
| CPU: | Intel Core Duo 2 (2.1 GHz) |
| Memory (RAM): | 2 gigabytes |
| Hard disk capacity: | 200 gigabytes (or more) |
| Monitor/video card: | 19" with 1024x768 resolution (with a separate video card with a minimum 256 megabytes of video memory). |
| Mouse: | Two/three button roller mouse |
| Input/Output ports: | 4 - USB ports, 1 - FireWire port |
| Operating system: | Windows Vista Home Premium |
| Communication port: | Ethernet 10/100 Base T or Wireless 802.11g/n or 54 kbs modem |
| Printer: | Ink-jet printer |
| Optical drive: | Dual Layer DVD±R/RW |
| Software | Office Professional 2007 |

Minimum Macintosh Requirements:

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|---------------------|--|
| CPU: | Intel Core Duo 2 (2.4 GHz) |
| Memory (RAM): | 2 gigabytes or more |
| Hard disk capacity: | 250 gigabytes (or more) |
| Monitor/video card: | 20" (or larger) |
| Mouse: | Apple Mighty Mouse or USB |
| Input/Output ports: | 3 - USB port (minimum), 1 - FireWire |
| Operating system: | OS X (10.5) or higher |
| Communication port: | Ethernet 10/100 Base T or Airport card (802.11g/n) or 54 kbs modem |
| Printer: | Ink-jet printer |
| Optical drive: | Dual Layer DVD±RW |
| Software | Office 2008 Windows virtualization software |

Warranty:

Be sure to ask about the length, coverage, and specifics of warranties that may apply to the computer you are considering. This is often used as an indicator of the quality of the computer's parts.

Computers with longer warranties that cover more items are generally regarded as higher in quality. Extended warranties may be worth consideration and depend upon your level of comfort.

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