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COMPUTER GUIDE by MAJOR

The Computer Guide by Major

is your go-to resource for choosing the right device to support your academic success. Created by **aztecnology** in collaboration with SDSU's academic departments, this guide provides major-specific computer recommendations so you can invest in a system that fits your needs.

aztecnology offers a standard set of recommended specs for most students, but some departments may require more advanced configurations. This guide brings together all those recommendations in a clear, easy-to-navigate format to help you make an informed decision.

Most systems available through **aztecnology** meet or exceed these recommended specifications and are fully compatible with on-campus support services.

If your major is listed with the term "Standard Configuration" on the following pages, that means your department follows aztecnology's general computer recommendations. You'll have flexibility when choosing a device, as long as it meets these baseline specs.

That said, some departments may have more specific or advanced requirements based on the software and workload typical for their courses. Be sure to review those details carefully to ensure your device is fully prepared for what your classes will demand. If you're unsure about the requirements for your major, please check directly with your department to confirm the specs you'll need.

Configurations are subject to change.

aztecnology's standard recommended specs are:

- Intel i5 (10th generation or newer) or Apple M3 chip
- 16GB memory
- 256GB storage

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Computer Guide by Major

College of Arts & Letters

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Africana Studies

American Indian Studies

Anthropology

Asian Studies

Chicana and Chicano Studies

Classics and Humanities

Comparative International Studies

Economics

English and Comparative Literature

European Studies

French

Geography—General, Environmental, Human

German

International Business

Japanese

Language, Culture, and Society

Latin American Studies

LGBTQ+ Studies

Linguistics

Modern Jewish Studies

Philosophy

Political Studies

Rhetoric & Writing Studies

Russian

Russian and Central European Studies

Social Science

Sociology
  Please note: tablets are not recommended for Sociology

Spanish and Portuguese Languages
  and Literatures

Sustainability

Urban Studies

Women's and Gender Studies
  Please note: tablets are not recommended for MA Students

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Geography—GIST, GIS, Water/Climate/Ecosystems
  Windows: running Microsoft Windows 11 is recommended. (If using an Apple computer, ArcGIS Pro does not run on the macOS platform. Dual-Boot with Windows is required.)
  Processor (CPU): 2 cores (dual-core) minimum (4 cores (quad-core) or better, recommended)
  Memory : 16GB minimum (32GB recommended; 64GB or more, optimal)
  GPU: Discrete (not integrated) GPU with 4GB memory, recommended. For notebook computers, if GPU is integrated, increase memory to compensate for shared memory.
  Storage: Solid State Drive (SSD); 256GB minimum (512GB, recommended; 1TB or more, optimal)

Fowler College of Business

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Business

Finance

Financial Services

International Business

Management

Management Information Systems

Marketing

Real Estate

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Accountancy
  Windows, i5 (minimum), 16GB Memory, 256GB storage

Computer Guide by Major

College of Education

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Child & Family Development (CFD)

Educational Leadership (EDL)

Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education (ARPE)

Counseling & School Psychology (CSP)

Dual Language & English Learner Education (DLE)

Liberal Studies

Special Education (SPED)

School of Teacher Education (STE)

Joint Ph.D. Progmemory with Claremont Graduate University (JDP SDSU/ CGU)

College of Engineering

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Engineering—All Studies

Windows: In Operating System: Windows 10(64-bit), Processor: Intel or AMD CPU (mid-range processors and up) Intel i7 and up, Memory: AMD Ryzen 32GB memory (16GB minimum), Hard Drive: Solid State Drive (SSD) with minimum 256GB and maintaining at least 20GB of free space, High end GPU that was released in the last 3 years such as Nvidia Quadro, AMD Radeon Pro Consumer grade GPU such as Nvidia GeForce and AMD Radeon.
Please note: Most engineering software, such as Solidworks and ANSYS, is designed for Windows and is not currently supported (or very limited) on Mac computers

College of Health & Human Services

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Exercise & Nutritional Sciences

Gerontology

Nursing

Public Health

Social Work

Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

College of Sciences

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Astronomy

Biology

Chemical Physics

Chemistry and Biochemistry

Environmental Sciences

Geological Sciences

International Security and Conflict Resolution

Mathematics & Statistics

Microbiology

Physical Science

Physics

Psychology

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Computer Science
  i7 processor or Apple M3 chip; 32GB recommended (24GB minimum); 1TB storage

College of Professional Studies & Fine Arts

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Art History

Communication

Criminal Justice

Health Communication

Hospitality and Tourism Management

Military Science

Naval Science

Public Administration

Public Affairs

Real Estate

Recreation and Tourism Management

Computer Guide by Major

(PSFA) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Art + Design—Applied Design
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud* and Rhinoceros; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M3 chip; 16GB Memory; 256GB storage)

Art + Design—Foundations 2D
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud*; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M3 chip; 16GB memory ; 256GB storage).

Art + Design—Foundations 3D
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud*; Sketchup Free Software; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M3 chip; 16GB memory ; 256GB storage).

Art + Design—Graphic Design
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud*; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M3 chip; 16GB memory ; 256GB storage).

Art + Design—Interior Architecture
Windows/MAC: Intel or AMD 4.8 GHz / Silicon 32-core, 32 core GPU, 32GB memory, 2TB SSD hard drive. Required Software: Adobe Creative Cloud*, Revit (for Windows only), AutoCAD. Recommended software: Rhinoceros, Sketchup, Enscape. Display: 1920 x 1200 and up, recommended 4K. Mouse: Multi-button mouse with a scroll wheel.

Art + Design—Multi-Media
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud*; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M3 chip; 16GB memory ; 256GB storage)

City Planning
Windows: running Microsoft Windows 11 is recommended. (If using an Apple computer, ArcGIS Pro does not run on the macOS platform. Dual-Boot with Windows is required.) Processor (CPU): 2 cores (dual-core) minimum (4 cores (quad-core) or better, recommended) Memory : 16GB minimum (32GB recommended; 64GB or more, optimal) GPU: Discrete (not integrated) GPU with 4GB memory, recommended. For notebook computers, if GPU is integrated, increase memory to compensate for shared memory. Storage: Solid State Drive (SSD); 256GB minimum (512GB, recommended; 1TB or more, optimal)

Journalism & Media Studies (Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising, Media Studies)
Mac: Mac 8-Core CPU, 8-10 Core GPU M2 processor and at least 16GB memory and at least a 512GB external storage drive. Windows: i7 processor, 16GB memory , 512GB SSD hard drive

Music and Dance
i7 processor or Apple M2 chip, 16GB Memory, 512GB storage

Theatre, Television and Film (TFM Production, Critical Studies; THEA General, Performance, Youth Theatre)
Mac: Apple Silicon CPU (M3+), at least 16GB memory, and at least 512GB SSD. Windows: ARM64 CPU (laptops) or Intel i7 multicore CPU (desktops), 16GB memory, 512GB+ SSD, (NVidia RTX 3060+ GPU or higher for Production)

Theatre, Television and Film (THEA Design and Technology)
Windows: Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support, Operating system: Microsoft Windows 10 (64 bit), Memory: 16GB minimum (32GB recommended), GPU: Not integrated graphics. A dedicated OpenGL 4.1 compatible graphics card with 8GB of VMemory or more, preferably released in the past three years (e.g. NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2080 TI series, AMD Radeon RX 5000 series). Hard disk: 500GB Mac: Apple M3+ chip, at least 16GB Memory, and at least 512GB storage

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Adobe Creative Cloud is available to all students. To access, visit **it.sdsu.edu/apps-software** and sign in with your SDSUid.

*Denotes Adobe Creative Cloud is a requirement for these majors.