

2024-2025 Student Computer Recommendations

QCC does not require students to own a laptop or desktop computer, however most students find that it is much easier to have one. The following list is our *recommended* minimum configurations. If you are planning on purchasing a computer, consider taking this list with you. Certain programs have special requirements - they are listed separately. If you are in a healthcare program, please review the notation at the bottom indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Minimum and Recommended Specs		Requirements for Specific Majors				
	Minimum	Recommended	Computer Science (Laptop Required)	Computer Systems Engineering	Electronic Engineering Technology	Interactive Media	Manufacturing
Operating System We do not recommend Chromebooks as they do not support some required components	Windows 10 Pro/Education, 64-bit, Mac OSX 10.9 or higher	Windows 11, Mac OSX 10.9 or higher	Windows 10 Pro/Education /Enterprise	Win 10 or 11 Pro or Education	Windows 10 Pro/Edu, 64 bit	Windows 11 or Mac OSX	Windows 10 Pro/Edu, 64 bit
CPU (Recommended system /CPU is no more than 5 7 years old)	Quad-core Atom, Dual-core Celeron, AMD 11 GHz E- 300, Intel i3 or higher	Intel i5 or AMD Dual-core or higher	Intel i7 Quad-core or AMD Quad-core or higher	Intel i7 12-gen or i9 12-gen recommended or AMD Quad-core or higher, 3.0 GHz minimum speed	Quad-core Intel or AMD processor with 64-bit Support, 3.0 GHz minimum speed	Windows: Intel Core i5 (12th gen or higher), AMD Ryzen 5 (5th gen or higher), QUALCOMM Snapdragon Elite. Mac: M2 chip or higher (M3 Recommended)	Quad-core Intel or AMD processor with 64-bit Support, 3.0 GHz minimum speed
RAM	8 GB RAM	8 GB RAM	16 GB RAM	32 GB RAM minimum. If class requires creation of multiple virtual machines (such as CSC241), 64 GB RAM is recommended	16 GB RAM or higher	Windows: Minimum 16 GB (32 GB recommended) Mac: Minimum 8 GB (16 GB highly recommended)	32 GB RAM or higher
Hard Drive	128 GB eMMC or more	500 GB 5400 RPM Hard Drive or 128 GB SSD (256 GB SSD Highly recommended) or greater	500 GB SSD or 1TB SSD Drive Recommended	500 GB SSD. 1TB SSD recommended with 1T additional storage (HDD or SSD)	500 GB 7200 RPM or 256 GB SSD or greater	SATA SSD 500 GB (1tb NVME SSD recommended) NO HDDs (anything with RPM: ex. 5400rpm HDD)	500 GB 7200 RPM or 256 GB SSD or greater
Graphics (GPU)	Integrated Graphics	Integrated Graphics	Minimum VRAM 4 GB	Minimum VRAM, 4 GB minimum, 6 GB recommended	Integrated Graphics	Nvidia GPU (GTX 2050 or higher) AMD GPU (Radeon RX 6550M or higher)	Integrated Graphics unreliable, SolidWorks certified graphics card preferred (http://www.solidworks.com/sw/support/videocardtesting.html)
CD/DVD Drive	Not required	Not required	Not required, but useful	Not required, but useful	Not required, but useful	N/A	Not required, but useful
Interface	1 USB 3.0	3 USB (at least 1 USB 3.0)	3 USB (at least 1 USB 3.0)	3 USB (at least 1 USB 3.0 & 1 USB-C)	3 USB (at least 1 USB 3.0)	USB 3.1/3.2 (USB 4 recommended)	3 USB (at least 1 USB 3.0)
Network	Wireless 802.11a/b/g/n/ac, Bluetooth 4.2	Wireless (802.11g/n or 802.11ac)	Wireless (802.11g/n or 802.11ac), Wired LAN	Wireless (802.11g/n/ac minimum, ax recommended), Wired LAN recommended	Wireless (802.11g/n or 802.11ac)	WiFi 6 (WiFi 6E recommended)	Wireless (802.11g/n or 802.11ac)
Browsers	Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge	Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge	Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge	Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge	Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge	Any	Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge
Audio & Webcam	Speaker & Microphone (embedded or external), camera or webcam	Speaker & Microphone (embedded or external), camera or webcam	Speaker & Microphone (embedded or external), camera or webcam	Speaker & Microphone (embedded or external), camera or webcam	Speaker & Microphone (embedded or external), camera or webcam	N/A	Speaker & Microphone (embedded external), camera or webcam
Additional Software: Office 365 Education is available to students for free through QCC	Office 365	Office 365 (including Microsoft Access for CIS students)	Office 365, Office 2019, Acrobat Reader, CLion, MINGW, VirtualBox	Office 365 or Office 2021	Office 365 or Office 2019	N/A	Office 365 or Office 2019
All computers that connect to the QCC Wireless network <i>must</i> have up-to-date antivirus protection. We also recommend a product such as Lojack for PCs.							

* Students enrolled in healthcare programs should also have a tablet type display and a stylus. Anti-virus Software is required. Some suggested free PC & Mac anti-virus solutions: [Avast](#), [AVG](#), [Sophos](#). For additional guidelines and information, visit the [CISA.gov website](#)

We are pleased to offer basic technical support for your personal devices through our BlackBelt support services, available 24x7. They can be reached by calling 508.854.4427 and follow the prompts. We recommend that at the time of purchase you understand your warranties and how you can receive technical assistance.