Computer Guide by Major

is an information resource developed by aztecnology, in collaboration with academic departments at San Diego State University. It was designed to provide every student with an accurate computer recommendation based on their major. SDSU has standard global computer recommendations, while some departments may have more specific requirements.

The Computer Guide by Major is a compilation of the recommendations in an easy-to-review format. It is important to have a system that can be supported on campus. Most computers at aztecnology meet the minimum requirements of the University.

The University’s standard recommended specs are:
• i5, 10th generation or newer, processor or Apple M1 chip
• 8GB RAM
• 256GB storage

If your major is listed on the following pages with “Standard” then your department recommends the University’s standard specifications for any device you choose to purchase.

While most computers at aztecnology meet the minimum recommendations of the University, each department may have more specific recommendations.

Configurations are subject to change.

Shop in the SDSU Bookstore or online at shopaztecs.com

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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 Studies

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**
- Geography—GIST, GIS, Water/Climate/Ecosystems

*PC: i5 (minimum), 16GB RAM, 256GB storage*

**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. Program with Claremont Graduate University (JDP SDSU/ CGU)

**College of Engineering**

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
- Aerospace Engineering
  - i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 8GB RAM; 512GB
  - Recommended (256GB storage minimum)
- Engineering—All other Studies
  - PC: Intel or AMD CPU (mid-range processors and up) Intel i7 and up, AMD Ryzen 32GB memory (16GB minimum), 256GB storage minimum.
  - Hard drive: Solid State Drive (SSD). Maintaining at least 20GB 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.
  - Operating System: Windows 64-bit

**College of Health & Human Services**

STANDARD CONFIGURATION
- Exercise & Nutritional Sciences
- Gerontology
- Nursing
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**
- Geography—GIST, GIS, Water/Climate/Ecosystems

*PC: i5 (minimum), 16GB RAM, 256GB storage*
Computer Guide by Major

College of Professional Studies & Fine Arts

STANDARD CONFIGURATION
Communication
Criminal Justice
Health Communication
Hospitality and Tourism Management
Military Science
Naval Science
Public Administration
Public Affairs
Real Estate
Recreation and Tourism Management

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
Art + Design—Applied Design
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud and Rhinoceros; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 8GB RAM; 256GB storage)

Art + Design—Foundations 2D
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 8GB RAM; 256GB storage)

Art + Design—Foundations 3D
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud; Sketchup Frese Software; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 8GB RAM; 256GB storage)

Art + Design—Graphic Design
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 8GB RAM; 256GB storage)

Art + Design—Interior Architecture
PC: i7 processor, 128GB RAM, 2TB SSD hard drive, Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud, Revit (for PC only), AutoCAD, Enscape. Recommended software: Rhinoceros + Grasshopper.

Mac: i9 processor, 64GB RAM, 8TB hard drive, Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud, AutoCAD, Enscape. Recommended software: Rhinoceros + Grasshopper

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS cont’d
Art + Design—Multi-Media
Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud; Standard University configuration (i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 8GB RAM; 256GB storage)

Journalism & Media Studies (Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising, Media Studies)
Mac: Mac 8-Core CPU, 8-10 Core GPU M1 or M2 processor and at least 16GB RAM and at least a 512GB external storage drive.
PC: i7 processor, 16GB RAM, 512GB SSD hard drive

Music and Dance
i7 processor or Apple M1 chip, 16GB RAM, 512GB storage

Theatre, Television and Film (TFM Production, Critical Studies; THEA General, Performance, Youth Theatre)
Mac: Apple M1 chip, at least 16GB RAM, and at least 512GB storage

Music and Dance
i7 processor or Apple M1 chip, 16GB RAM, 512GB storage

Theatre, Television and Film (THEA Design and Technology)
PC: Processor: Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support, Operating system: Microsoft Windows 10 (64 bit), RAM: 16GB minimum (32GB recommended), GPU: Not integrated graphics. A dedicated OpenGL 4.1 compatible graphics card with 8GB of VRAM 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 M1 chip, at least 16GB RAM, and at least 512GB storage
College of Sciences

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Astronomy

Biology

*Please note: tablets are not recommended for Biology*

Chemical Physics

Chemistry and Biochemistry

Environmental Sciences

Geological Sciences

International Security and Conflict Resolution

Microbiology

Physical Science

Physics

Psychology

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Computer Science

*i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 16GB recommended (8GB minimum); 256GB storage*

Mathematics & Statistics

*i5, 10th generation or newer, processor or Apple M1 chip; 16GB RAM; at least 512GB SSD storage*

Fowler College of Business

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Business

Finance

Financial Services

International Business

Management

Management Information Systems

Marketing

Real Estate

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy

*PC: i5 (minimum), 16GB RAM, 256GB storage*