

COMPUTER GUIDE by MAJOR



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.

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. Please note, if your major is listed under “Information Currently Unavailable,” we have not received information from the department. We will update when available.

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

Configurations are subject to change.

The University’s standard recommended specs are:

- i5 processor or Apple M1 chip
- 8GB RAM
- 256GB storage



Shop in the SDSU Bookstore or online at shopaztecs.com

Computer Guide by Major

College of Arts & Letters

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Anthropology
English and Comparative Literature
Geography—General, Environmental, Human
History
International Business
LGBTQ+ Studies
Linguistics, Japanese and Language,
Culture, and Society
Philosophy
Rhetoric & Writing Studies
Sociology
*Please note: tablets are not recommended
for Sociology*
Women's Studies

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Geography—GIST, GIS, Water/Climate/Ecosystems
PC. i5 (minimum), 16GB RAM, 256GB storage

INFORMATION CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

Africana Studies
American Indian Studies
Asian Studies
Chicana and Chicano Studies
Classics and Humanities
Comparative International Studies
Economics
European Studies
French
German

INFORMATION CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE cont'd

Latin American Studies
Modern Jewish Studies
Political Science
Religious Studies
Russian and Central European Studies
Russian
Social Science
Spanish and Portuguese Languages
and Literatures
Sustainability
Urban Studies

College of Education

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Child & Family Development (CFD)
Educational Leadership (EDL)

INFORMATION CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

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)

Computer Guide by Major

College of Engineering

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Engineering—All

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

INFORMATION CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

Gerontology

Nursing

Public Health

Social Work

Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

College of Sciences

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Chemistry and Biochemistry

Mathematics & Statistics

Psychology

INFORMATION CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

Astronomy

Biology

Microbiology

Chemical Physics

Computer Science

Environmental Sciences

Geological Sciences

International Security and Conflict Resolution

Physical Science

Physics

Fowler College of Business

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

International Business

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy
PC. i5 (minimum), 16GB RAM, 256GB storage

INFORMATION CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

Business

Finance

Financial Services

Management

Management Information Systems

Marketing

Real Estate

Computer Guide by Major

College of Professional Studies & Fine Arts

STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Communication

Health Communication

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Art + Design—Applied Design

*Standard Configuration, Required software:
Adobe Creative Cloud and Rhinoceros*

Art + Design—Foundations 2D

*Standard Configuration, Required software:
Adobe Creative Cloud*

Art + Design—Foundations 3D

*Standard Configuration, Required software:
Adobe Creative Cloud and Sketchup
Free Software*

Art + Design—Graphic Design

*Standard Configuration, Required software:
Adobe Creative Cloud*

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*

Art + Design—Multi-Media

*Standard Configuration, required software:
Adobe Creative Cloud*

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS cont'd

Journalism and Media Studies

*Mac with i7 processor and at least
16GB RAM and at least a 512GB external
storage drive*

Music and Dance

*i7 processor or Apple M1 chip, 16GB RAM,
512GB storage*

Theatre, Television and Film

TFM Majors (Production, Critical Studies)
THEA Majors (General, Performance,
Youth Theatre)

*Mac: Apple M1 chip, at least 16GB RAM,
and at least 512GB storage.*

THEA Majors (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*

INFORMATION CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE

Advertising

Aerospace Engineering

Criminal Justice

Hospitality and Tourism Management

Military Science

Naval Science

Public Administration

Public Affairs

Real Estate

Recreation and Tourism Management