

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.

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

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

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
Gerontology
Nursing
Public Health
Social Work
Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

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

Aerospace Engineering
*i5 processor or Apple M1 chip; 8GB RAM; 512GB
Recommended (256GB storage minimum)*

Art + Design—Applied Design
*Required software: Adobe Creative Cloud and
Rhino; 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
Freestyle 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:
Rhino + Grasshopper.*
*Mac: i9 processor, 64GB RAM, 8TB hard drive, Required
software: Adobe Creative Cloud, AutoCAD, Enscape.
Recommended software: Rhino + 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*

**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*

Computer Guide by Major

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