LAPTOP ADVICE FOR INCOMING CMDA MAJORS

Laptops get lots of use and abuse over a student's career. Invest in a good laptop, but also be sure to protect that laptop with a quality backpack and an extended warranty.

* Tablets (including Surface tablets and iPads) are NOT acceptable substitutes for a good laptop. A 15" laptop provides a good balance of battery life, portability, usability, and performance.

* Students need a quality backpack to protect their laptop: they will often take their laptop and accessories (e.g., power cord and mouse) to class. Look for a backpack that includes a padded pocket or removable sleeve for the laptop, and sufficient storage space for books, power cords, etc.

* Students are welcome to use macOS, Windows, or Linux operating systems.

* MacOS: We recommend a 15" MacBook Pro with at least 16 GB RAM and 512 GB storage/disk running an Intel Core i5 quad-core (or better). Lower configurations (minimum: dual-core processor, 8 GB RAM) are also acceptable, but beware that lighter laptops (MacBook, MacBook Air) can be more fragile.

* Windows: The minimum requirement is Windows 10 Professional (Home will be insufficient) with (the equivalent to) an Intel Core i5 quad-core (Core i7 is preferred) processor, 8 GB RAM (16 GB recommended), and 512 GB storage/disk (solid state recommended). Go for an established brand; Fujitsu laptops are NOT recommended. A portable performance model is strongly encouraged (e.g., Dell XPS line or equivalent).

* A service contract (e.g. AppleCare) is strongly encouraged, with at least 3 years of accidental damage protection, 4 if feasible.