

Student Laptop Program Requirements

2011-2012 POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF NYU STUDENT LAPTOP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

What are the requirements of NYU-Poly's Laptop Program?

Polytechnic Institute of NYU requires that all students without exception have an appropriate laptop computer when they commence classes and for the duration of their matriculation. Your laptop is an integral and invaluable tool in your education at NYU-Poly. As such,

1. You must have a laptop that can support the required software of NYU-Poly's academic program by the first day of classes.
2. You must register your laptop prior to using it on NYU-Poly's network by visiting the Laptop Help Desk (located in Rogers Hall Room 339).

This document will discuss how to meet the requirements of the NYU-Poly's Laptop Program.

Required Software

Windows XP Professional, Windows Vista (Home Premium and above) or Windows 7 (Home Premium and above) is the required operating system of this laptop program for the following reasons:

- There are significant differences between Windows XP Professional and Windows XP Home Edition. At NYU-Poly, we have our students work in teams. Collaboration and easy network integration are critical. This is the major advantage of Windows XP Professional over Windows XP Home Edition.
- Older versions of Windows such as Windows 2000, Windows NT, Windows ME, etc. are no longer fully supported by Microsoft.
- Windows Vista is readily available in most laptops today. Vista has new features such as Windows Aero & Sidebar for better desktop navigation. It offers improved security with its embedded firewall and Windows Defender along with the ability to encrypt data and do complete PC backup.
- Windows 7 is the newest Microsoft OS, which was released within the past year. It comes with new features such as Snap which instantly arranges two windows exactly side by side, and an improved Windows Search which allows you to find things quickly and easily. You can also find features that you've seen on Vista in Windows 7, such as faster startup time, easier management, and better PC protection.
- Much of the required software we can provide via group or volume licenses is only licensed for the current versions of the Windows OS (Windows XP, Windows Vista, & Windows 7).

NOTES FOR APPLE MACBOOK BUYERS: *Even though the Windows OS is a requirement for this program, students who prefer to purchase an Apple MacBook to meet the laptop requirement can certainly do so. However, you must have some version of the Windows OS installed on your MacBook to run the required software. To install Windows on a MacBook, it requires an Intel-based processor and you can run Windows in one of two ways: (1) Boot Camp utility - it lets you run Windows & Windows-based apps on a separate partition of your hard drive OR (2) Virtual software – software such as Parallels, VMware Fusion, Sun Virtual Box, etc. allows users to run Windows & Mac apps at the same time. Additional information about using Boot Camp and the specific requirements can be found on the Apple website (<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1461>).*

All incoming undergraduate first-year students are required to have the following software installed on their laptops by the first day of classes:

- Microsoft Office or compatible office productivity suite such as OpenOffice or WordPerfect Office
- Microsoft Visual Studio
- Anti-virus software with maintained virus definitions
- Mindstorms
- MATLAB Release 2010 (or newer)

Microsoft Office is not required but strongly recommended given its level of adoption within NYU-Poly. Transfer students may not need all the software listed above.

For all students, dependent upon your academic program and the courses you undertake in later years, you may be required to purchase additional software packages such as the following:

- CAD design software such as AutoCAD or SolidWorks
- Additional “toolboxes” for MATLAB (this can be obtained directly from MathWorks or via a vendor with whom we’ve negotiated pricing for faculty & students, A-Prompt)

The cost of such later requirements will generally be comparable to the cost of a textbook. Whenever possible, you can make use of any software discounts or group licenses that NYU-Poly has arranged.

You must respect copyright and software license agreements.

A software license is a type of proprietary or gratuitous license as well as a memorandum of contract between a producer and a user of computer software that specifies the parameters of the permission granted by the producer to the user. All software is protected under United States copyright laws from the time of its creation.

You are required to have valid, licensed copies of all software on your laptop and use this software within the rights granted to you by those licenses. Violation of software licenses or copyright is a violation of NYU-Poly’s Acceptable Use Policy. In addition, violation of software licenses or copyright is illegal and severe civil and criminal penalties can result.

Should violation of software licenses be detected, the Information Systems Department will refuse technical support, disable one’s ability to connect to the University network, and refer the matter to the Dean of Student Affairs for judicial action.

What Options Exist for Obtaining Required Software?

There are two options for obtaining required software.

OPTION	EXPLANATION															
<p>Obtain the software for \$225 from the NYU-Poly Laptop Helpdesk</p>	<p>NYU-Poly’s Laptop Helpdesk will load on your laptop a software package bundling, not only the required software, but additional productivity software for a fee of \$225. The software package includes the following:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="516 1268 1495 1457"> <tr> <td>MS Office 2007 Enterprise</td> <td>Mindstorms</td> <td>MS Visio 2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MS OneNote 2007</td> <td>MATLAB Release 2010</td> <td>MS Expression Web</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MS InfoPath 2007</td> <td>MS SharePoint Designer 2007</td> <td>Symantec Antivirus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MS Visual Studio 2005</td> <td>MS Publisher 2007</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>MS Project 2007</td> <td>MS Groove 2007</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	MS Office 2007 Enterprise	Mindstorms	MS Visio 2007	MS OneNote 2007	MATLAB Release 2010	MS Expression Web	MS InfoPath 2007	MS SharePoint Designer 2007	Symantec Antivirus	MS Visual Studio 2005	MS Publisher 2007		MS Project 2007	MS Groove 2007	
MS Office 2007 Enterprise	Mindstorms	MS Visio 2007														
MS OneNote 2007	MATLAB Release 2010	MS Expression Web														
MS InfoPath 2007	MS SharePoint Designer 2007	Symantec Antivirus														
MS Visual Studio 2005	MS Publisher 2007															
MS Project 2007	MS Groove 2007															
<p>Obtain the software independently</p>	<p>You have the option of trying to obtain the best pricing arrangement possible via other vendors. This option is not recommended given the lower cost of licenses we have negotiated, but the option is yours.</p> <p>Though you may purchase the required software from any vendor, we have made an arrangement with A-Prompt Corporation and the NYU Bookstore for discount pricing on required software for students and faculty of NYU-Poly. Their contact information is as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="613 1793 1474 1902"> <tr> <td>A-Prompt Corporation</td> <td>NYU Bookstore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>http://www.aprompt.com</td> <td>http://www.bookstores.nyu.edu/computer.store</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1-800-478-9515</td> <td>1-212-998-4672</td> </tr> </table>	A-Prompt Corporation	NYU Bookstore	http://www.aprompt.com	http://www.bookstores.nyu.edu/computer.store	1-800-478-9515	1-212-998-4672									
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If You Need to Purchase a Laptop Computer

If you don't have a laptop computer or need to purchase a new one in order to meet the requirements of NYU-Poly's required academic software, there are two options for its purchase:

1. You may purchase a laptop computer through an arrangement we have made with a specific vendor.

This arrangement is advantageous for the following reasons:

- These laptops are known to meet NYU-Poly's recommended hardware specifications and have been configured with the goal of providing at least four years of useful life.
- These laptops have been discounted under our arrangement with the vendor.
- Our laptop helpdesk is certified to perform warranty service on IBM/Lenovo notebooks.
- IBM/Lenovo laptops purchased through our program come with a four-year manufacturer's warranty and accidental damage protection.
- The vendor is familiar with NYU-Poly's Student Laptop Program Requirements.

To purchase a Lenovo laptop using the approved vendor, please go to the specific URL below to purchase the laptop.

NYU Computer Store –

<http://www.bookstores.nyu.edu/computer.store/price.guides.html>

- ◇ Type "poly1" in the netID/NYU ID box and Click on the box that you agree to the terms and conditions.
- ◇ After you've successfully authenticated, on the left-side, Click on School Recommended Systems > NYU-Poly Recommended Systems > More Details

Purchase of laptops via this program is dependent upon submission of your tuition deposit.

You must use the above URL to obtain NYU-Poly discounted pricing.

2. You may purchase a laptop computer meeting the hardware specifications described below via another retailer.

As a practical matter, our help desk is most familiar with IBM/Lenovo machines based upon the history of the program. We cannot commit to the same support on other manufacturer models, simply due to the variety available, but will be as helpful as we can.

When purchasing a new computer, you're making an investment in something you'll most likely be using through out your four years at NYU-Poly. With this in mind, please carefully consider the following advice. Though some items involve greater initial cost, they may save you money over time.

- A three year warranty is often the standard warranty. If it is possible to add an additional year's coverage, you should strongly consider purchasing this coverage to avoid potentially costly time & materials, repairs after the warranty expires, or the need to replace the laptop.
- Warranties only cover defects in the laptop, but not theft or damage due to accidents. You may wish to look into accident insurance via the laptop vendor or a personal insurance policy.
- Software requirements for hardware performance, memory, and storage can be expected to increase across the span of your academic career at NYU-Poly. Purchasing a laptop with a "higher end" specification will more likely provide greater utility over time.
- Better laptops provide a metal alloy composite casing to better protect their LCD displays and other internals. LCD displays can be very costly to replace. Thus, we recommend you purchase a laptop with such a casing.
- Your selection of features above the minimum configuration should be based upon your own preferences and plans. In some cases, you may be planning an upgrade at a later date.
- Purchase a laptop lock that you can use to secure your laptop should you step away from it.
- Purchase a laptop case or laptop bag solely for storage and protection. Never store your laptop along with your books and other things as this will damage your laptop.

For the 2011-2012 academic year, we recommend that a newly purchased laptop meet the “Minimum Hardware Specification” detailed below. To better ensure that a new laptop meets the requirements of your academic program throughout your four years, you may wish to purchase a laptop meeting the “Recommended Hardware Specification” below.

	MINIMUM HARDWARE SPECIFICATION	RECOMMENDED HARDWARE SPECIFICATION
Processor	Intel® Core™ 2 Duo CPU CPU or comparable	Intel® Core™ 2 Duo CPU i-Series (i3, i5, i7) CPU or comparable
Memory	2 GB DDR-RAM, expandable to 4 GB	4 GB DDR-RAM, expandable to 8 GB
Display	14.1 TFT XGA LCD display	15.4 TFT WXGA LCD display
Storage	160 GB Hard Drive, 5400 RPM CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive	320 GB Hard Drive, 7200 RPM DVD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
Networking/Communications	Integrated 802.11b/g/n wireless, Integrated Gigabit Ethernet, USB 2.0 ports	Integrated 802.11b/g/n wireless, Integrated Gigabit Ethernet, USB 2.0 ports
Power	Lithium-ion battery (4.5 hr capacity)	Lithium-ion battery (4.5 hr capacity)
Operating System	Windows XP Professional, Windows Vista (Home Premium and above), or Windows 7 (Home Premium and above)	Windows 7 Professional (and above)
Warranty	3-yr Warranty (4-yr Preferred)	3-yr Warranty (4-yr Preferred)
Estimated Cost (includes NYU-Poly Licensed Software, but not taxes & shipping)	\$1,800	\$2,300

The prices above are representative only. Federal regulations allow students and/or parents to borrow loans to assist in the financing of computers and required software. After purchasing your computer and/or software, if you wish to obtain a student loan to receive reimbursement for the initial outlay of funds, please provide the Office of Financial Aid with a copy of your receipt at the time of the loan application. If you have any questions, you may contact the Office of Financial Aid at finaidb@poly.edu.

If You Need Assistance with Your Laptop

Our Laptop Help Desk is skilled in providing technical information and support. Our technicians are certified to do warranty service on IBM/Lenovo notebooks. While we cannot commit to the same support of other manufacturer models, simply due to the variety available, we will provide as much assistance as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

I already have a laptop. Can I use it instead of purchasing a new laptop?

If you have an existing machine with Core™ 2 Duo processor or better, 2GB of RAM, 160GB or better hard drive, compatible wireless, and the Windows XP Professional operating system or better, then you should be able to run the current required software. However, as new software is released and required in your coursework, you may need to upgrade or replace your laptop.

What can be included in the estimated cost of education for loans and financial aid?

The costs of hardware and software purchased in order to meet the laptop program requirements may be included in the estimated cost of education for loan and financial aid considerations. For more information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at finaidb@poly.edu.

Must I use the vendors with whom you've made an arrangement?

No. The vendors with whom we negotiated discounted prices for your benefit are an option, not a requirement. They are familiar with our program and its implementation. The decision of whether to use them is yours. You will want to compare prices, convenience, and other factors. They are an excellent starting point for your price comparisons. The decision, however, is yours.

What is the rationale behind the minimum and recommended hardware requirements?

- CPU: The Intel® Core™ Duo is designed specifically for use in laptop computers. If you choose a laptop with a different CPU, be sure to pay attention to expected battery life. For example, the desktop Pentium-4 is used on some laptops, and frequently is the cause of short life between battery charges and/or reduced battery life. Within the Core™ Duo line, a higher clock rate will generally have a longer technical life of the laptop throughout your college career. If you choose a CPU other than the Core™ Duo, it should have equivalent performance in industry-standard benchmarks.
- Display: You'll be spending a lot of time looking at your laptop's display, so quality is an important issue. In general, the larger the size and the higher the resolution, the better. If there's a tradeoff, size is more important.
- Memory: The current versions of the Windows OS are designed to handle a large amount of main memory, and recent experience has shown that with the increased use of streaming video and digital music, more memory is better. Given the current pricing for main memory, 2GB is the minimum you should consider.
- Hard Drive: Given the growing use of MP3 music, streaming video, and multimedia applications in general, the general rule of thumb is "bigger is better." We believe 160GB is the smallest acceptable size for a hard drive, and 320GB is much better. The speed of the drive in RPM is important for large files, and you should seek the highest value you can. 5400 RPM is a speed that you should be able to find easily, and 7200 RPM will give you noticeably better performance. Additionally, you might invest in an external hard drive for more storage and backup purposes.
- CD-RW/DVD Drive: The ability to make permanent media is important, and we believe that DVD will become the dominant medium over the next few years. Therefore, a combo drive that supports both formats is necessary. DVD writing standards are not firm yet, and there have been problems with different drives being able to read disks created by each other. Therefore, we are recommending using CD-RW technology, but still having a DVD drive.
- Wireless: NYU-Poly's current wireless network is IEEE 802.11 b/g/n, and will be for the indefinite future. Therefore, a laptop that supports IEEE 802.11 b/g/n or compatible is mandatory. To connect to NYU-Poly's network while on-campus, your wireless must also support the WPA2 encryption.

- **Ethernet:** Any reasonable laptop will support 10/100/1000 technology, and there are many wired ports throughout the campus that support the higher speed and greater security of wired Ethernet.
- **USB:** Version 2.0 ports are now commonplace and are much faster than the USB 1.0 or USB 1.1 technology. It should not be hard to find a laptop that supports USB 2.0, and anything less is not cost effective. More and more PC peripherals and electronic devices now use the USB technology. Therefore, it might be advisable to purchase a laptop with numerous USB ports.
- **Battery:** This is one of the most critical parts of your laptop. Many students like to work in places where there is no electrical power (e.g. coming in on the train or subway in the morning, sitting in the park outside Rogers Hall), so having a good battery is extremely important. Lithium Ion technology currently has the greatest battery life. In fact, you might consider buying a booster battery as well. The older Nickel Hydride or Nickel Cadmium technologies have MUCH less battery life, and should be avoided. After you acquire your laptop, be sure to read the manual on how to prolong battery life, and follow the manufacturer's recommended practices.
- **Case:** A metal alloy case is extremely desirable. Students usually keep their laptops in a backpack or similar arrangement, and have damaged their displays due to pressure on the case of the laptop. A metal alloy case will resist this damage more effectively. In addition, there are slip cases you can buy for your laptop in computer accessory departments which may help minimize this damage. Buying a laptop with a normal plastic case and putting it in a case with other items (e.g. textbooks) is not practical.

More Questions?

- **For questions about the laptop program or other technical matters,** please send an email to notebook@poly.edu
Make sure to check the Information Systems website for updates at the following URL:
<http://www.poly.edu/life/student-0/information/laptop>
- **For questions regarding the purchase of a laptop through our recommended vendor,** please contact the NYU Bookstore whose information is provided at the following URL:
NYU Computer Store - <http://www.bookstores.nyu.edu/computer.store>
- **For questions related to other aspects of your admission or NYU-Poly's academic programs,** please contact the Admissions Office at uadmit@poly.edu or (upon admission) your academic advisor at advisement@poly.edu