



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW
Bloomington

The Computer Requirement

The Law School requires that all students have a laptop computer. This document can help guide your selection if you don't have one yet, and will describe the financial aid implications.

Why Is a Laptop Computer Required?

There are several good reasons.

- Many courses use information technology not only for research but also for teaching and classroom work.
- Most exams are offered in electronic form. Because only one student can take exams on a particular laptop in a year, it makes sense that you have your own.
- The law building, like much of the Indiana University Bloomington campus, is equipped with wireless networking. Laptops are best able to make use of wireless technology.

Our Configuration Suggestions

If you want to buy a new computer before coming to campus, we suggest a laptop conforming to the specifications in "option one" (below). A laptop with those specifications will be suitable not only for *Windows Vista*, but also for *Windows 7*. If you already own a laptop or want to buy a computer meeting minimum specifications, review "option two" and "option three." Option two is a middle-of-the-road configuration, option three a minimum acceptable configuration.

Option One

- Processor: Intel Core 2 Duo or better
Example, T6600 (2.2GHz/800Mhz FSB/2MB cache)
- Discrete graphics processing units (GPU) w/ 256MB
- Hard disk: 320GB 7200RPM SATA or better
- Optical Disk: 8X CD/DVD Burner (Dual Layer DVD+/-R)
- System Memory (RAM): 4GB or more
- Operating system: *Windows Vista or 7 (Enterprise or Ultimate)*
- Screen specifications: at least 1024x768 pixel resolution
- Integrated 802.11 wireless (b, g or n)
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet

Option Two

- Processor: Intel Pentium Dual Core or better
Example, T5850 (2.16GHz/667Mhz FSB/2MB cache)
- Discrete graphics processing units (GPU) w/ 128MB
- Hard disk: 120GB 5400 RPM or better
- Optical Disk: DVD-ROM/CD-RW Combo Drive
- Memory (RAM): 2GB or more
- Operating system: *Windows XP (Professional) or Vista (Enterprise or Ultimate)*
- Screen specifications: at least 1024x768 pixel resolution
- Integrated 802.11b or 802.11g wireless
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet

Option Three

- Processor: T2390 (1.86GHz/533Mhz FSB/1MB cache)
- Hard disk: 80GB (5400 RPM) or more
- Optical Disk: DVD-ROM/CD-RW Combo Drive
- Memory (RAM): 1GB or more
- Operating system: *Windows XP Professional*
- Screen specifications: at least 1024 x 768 pixel resolution
- Integrated 802.11b or 802.11g wireless
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- Integrated 56kb modem

Our recommendations reflect our belief that most people are best served by a medium sized, powerful laptop. But some students will prefer a "desktop replacement" laptop with a larger screen, and others will prefer a smaller "ultra portable" laptop. Generally, larger form-factor laptops offer more performance, while powerful ultra portable laptops are the most expensive. The latest category in laptops is the "netbook." Both Dell and HP offer products in this segment under the *Mini* name.

We do not endorse any specific operating system. But to participate in the electronic exam process you will need a computer running *Windows*. If you buy a new computer using *Windows Vista or 7*, you should select the *Ultimate* edition. You may purchase *Windows Vista Ultimate* and *Windows 7 Ultimate* (\$20.00) from Indiana University at the Information Commons.

Apple's Macintosh operating system is supported by Indiana University Information Technology Services, and works with the Law School's wireless and wired Ethernet networks. But the Macintosh platform is not directly supported by the School of Law.

Students equipped with the new generation of Apple MacBook laptops are now able to take examinations at the School of Law using *Boot Camp* and *Windows* on those computers. The software vendor has authorized the installation and use of the examination application on the MacBook and MacBook Pro running *Windows*. The examination software cannot be used on older model Macs as they are not able to run windows. It can only be used on the new generation models using Intel processors.

In order to utilize the examination software on these Macs, the student must install *Boot Camp* (included in OSX) and *Windows* (available on campus). We have tested this configuration during actual exam periods and found that it works well.

Linux and similar/derivative operating systems are supported by Indiana University's University Information Technology Services, but are not supported directly by the School of Law.

Financial Aid Implications of Buying a Computer

The cost of a computer is not included in your direct costs.

You may request that the cost of a new computer (up to \$2,500)—even one you buy before arriving on campus—be added to your financial aid budget (increasing the amount you may borrow). But you may find that you do not need an adjustment since our standard law school budget already includes \$1,912 per month for living. Because most students can live comfortably on substantially less, there is often sufficient funding already in the budget for a computer.

If you do decide to request an increased budget to include computer costs, Paul Leopold, Director of Financial Aid, will soon share information about the process, or you may visit him during the academic year for more details.