



## SCNM Computer Guidelines

The following guidelines are the recommended minimum requirements to run all of the programs and applications that a student will come into contact with during their tenure at SCNM. While it is not a SCNM requirement that students own their own computer, it is a requirement that students have access to a computer. High speed internet Access (Cable, DSL, or Wireless) is required to access many SCNM systems.

All SCNM facilities including the classrooms, library, medical center, and student lounge areas have high speed wireless internet access. The computer lab, located in the library, has 16 workstations that include high speed internet, flatbed scanners, CD Writable drives and print stations.

The SCNM Information Technology department has worked with several computer hardware and software vendors to establish special academic pricing on laptops and software. Students interested in purchasing equipment under these discount programs should contact the IT department at 480-858-9100 or e-mail [it@scnm.edu](mailto:it@scnm.edu).

**It is highly recommended that you identify a computer user whom you trust and who can help you.** This should not be a salesperson, and would best be someone from the IT department.

The following are some basics that will help you choose a system.

### *Desktops versus Laptops*

The choice of whether to purchase a desktop or laptop system should be based upon your sense of how you will be using your computer system. If you wish to get the most use from your computer you'll want a laptop/notebook as you can carry it to class, take notes, download the PowerPoint's, and notes your instructors post. If you wish to get the most "bang for the buck" you'll probably want to consider a desktop system. Dollar for dollar, you can get more computing power and expandability with a desktop.

While PDAs or Personal Digital Assistants are increasing in popularity in medicine, it is recommended that you do not purchase a PDA unless you already have either a desktop or laptop system to use as your primary computer.

### *A Few Words about Software*

Any system you purchase should come with software pre-installed. These include the operating system (Macintosh or Windows), and at least word processing software. More sophisticated system packages include a suite of programs such as "Microsoft Office" which will have most of the "basic tools"

(Word, Excel, PowerPoint, & Outlook) you will need. Be sure to check with the vendor to determine what software is included, Microsoft Works, iWork and WordPerfect are not supported at SCNM

**Minimum system Requirements**

	<i>Windows</i>	<i>Macintosh</i>
Microprocessor	Pentium 4 or equal AMD at >1.5Ghz	MacBook or MacBook Pro with Intel Processor
Display	17 inch (desktop) or 14" (laptop)	17 inch (desktop) or 12" (laptop)
Hard disk drive	>80 gigabytes, as large as you can afford	>60 gigabytes, as large as you can afford
Random access memory (RAM)	512MB Min. 1024MB+ (recommended)	512MB Min. 1024MB+ (recommended)
CD-ROM DVD - CD-Writer	CD-ROM Drive Required, CD-Writer or DVD writer Recommended	CD-ROM Drive Required, CD-Writer or DVD writer Recommended
Network & Wireless	10/100MB Wired Ethernet Network, 802.11b/g Wireless (WiFi) Network	10/100MB Wired Ethernet Network, 802.11b/g Wireless (WiFi) Network
Printer	ink-jet (slower and cheaper) or laser (faster and more expensive)	ink-jet (slower and cheaper) or laser (faster and more expensive)
USB Flash Drive	1GB+ Recommended	1GB+ Recommended
Software	Windows XP Pro or Home with Service Pack 2 (Vista support in June of 07)  Microsoft Office 2003 or later Including: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook  Adobe Acrobat Reader	Mac OS X  Microsoft Office 2004 for the Mac or later Including: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Entourage  Adobe Acrobat Reader

All requirements listed are minimums and can be exceeded.