

# PURCHASING TECHNOLOGY



## PC Specifications Explanations



### Wireless

Most laptops come with built in wireless adapters. You will want to make sure that in the specifications you see something along the lines of "Integrated WiFi or Wireless". Following this typically you will see letters such as a/b/g/n. These letters represent the various protocols the adapter uses and the related speeds of your connection. Edinboro

University provides wireless b/g service in most locations on campus. The latest wireless "n" protocol is now available and we are starting to install b/g/n in newer installations (The Highlands).



### Wired Network

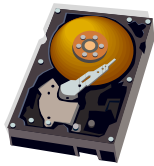
This is another piece of hardware that is standard in most computers. If you wish to be able to connect to a network by plugging a network cable directly into your computer (i.e. in the residence halls), you will want to make sure you have one of these. Along with making sure an integrated network card comes with your computer, you should also purchase a network cable (available where you purchase your computer or in the campus bookstore).

To make sure your computer comes with a built in wired network adaptor, look for keywords such as "Integrated 10/100 NIC" or "LAN Adapter". NIC stands for network interface controller. LAN stands for local area network.

## Understanding the Process of Purchasing a PC

What pc should I purchase for my son/daughter who is planning to attend Edinboro University??

Any brand such as Dell, Lenovo, HP, Toshiba, Acer, Apple Mac will work fine on the University's network. If you are entering the University in one of the Art programs, please click for the Art Department computer recommendations for students pursuing Art degrees.



### The Hard Drive

The hard drive stores all of the files on your computer. This storage does not get erased when you shutdown or restart your computer. Often in a computer's specifications you will see the hard drive referred to in gigabytes such as a 320 GB (gigabyte) hard drive.

How much storage is this you might ask? To translate into something meaningful - 320 GB is roughly 327,000 megabytes. A typical music (MP3) file is around 5 megabytes. This means you could store over 60,000 songs on this hard drive! Typically, this is more than adequate for most users. Note: you will find different sizes of hard drives when comparing but you can do the math to determine size - 160 GB hard drives have half the storage space of the 320 GB.



### RAM/Memory

Often, people confuse RAM with their Hard Drive. Memory or RAM typically ranges from 1 to 6 GB in most laptops these days. RAM stands for random access memory. When you're running programs such as Microsoft Word, Internet Explorer, or Windows Media Player on your computer - data is being saved to, used, and removed from RAM continuously.

The more RAM you have, the better. However, unless you'll be working with very demanding software, 2 or 3 GB will be just fine. Keep in mind that if you end up purchasing a computer with Windows Vista you will want at least 2 GB of RAM as the operating system (the interface you're working with) uses a bit more RAM than Windows XP.



### USB Flash Drive or External Hard Drive



You will want to make sure you purchase an external storage device in order to backup your homework assignments. If something were to happen to your computer's hard drive - it is extremely important that you have the data backed up onto another device!



### CPU/Processor

The central processing unit is the brain of your computer. The faster it is, the better. A Dual Core, Quad Core, or multi core computer, in short, is better at handling multiple things at once.

This means if you are playing music while browsing the internet and watching a movie all at the same time - it is going to be quicker to have multiple cores doing the work instead of just one. It is also better to have more than one core if you are doing any video or graphic editing.



### Software

Currently, Microsoft is offering a very nice discount to all students called the Ultimatesteal. Microsoft Office Ultimate 2007 which include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Groove, Publisher, Access and InfoPath if offered for \$59.95

### Warranty

There are various types of warranty coverage. Be sure to ask about the warranty coverage that comes with the computer you are purchasing.

Many stores offer only limited warranties, some require that you send your computer back to the manufacturer yourself. Although it adds to the cost, some vendors offer what is referred to as Complete Care Accidental Damage or Total Protection.

Complete Care Accidental Damage or Total Protection offers replacement for anything that might happen to the laptop during the timeframe you have the coverage such as repairing malfunctioning parts, or even complete replacement if something like dropping it or spilling liquids into it occurs. Warranty coverage is provided in various ways ranging from remote diagnosis and mail-in to having a technician come to your home to repair.

Value add! A computer that is purchased through the University's approved computer purchase vendor, CS Technologies Plus, will have warranty service provided through the University's Student Technology Help Desk.

Visit:

<http://www.csonline.net/edinboro/students/>

For information go to:

<http://www.microsoft.com/student/discounts/theultimatesteal-us/default.aspx>