High Point University Nido R. Qubein School of Communication

Selecting a Laptop Computer for Communication Majors

Today, communication majors are just as likely to encounter PCs and Macs in the classroom and the workplace. The choice to buy a PC or Mac should depend on the student's concentration within the communication major, which will determine what software the student will use on a regular basis. Computer labs in the School of Communication make all instructional software available to students but some may choose to purchase software to install on a laptop for personal use.

When a PC or Mac is a good choice:

- Strategic Communication
- Media and Popular Culture Studies

When the primary needs of the work place revolve around writing well, either platform is a good option. Use of business applications and the ability to blog and create podcasts play important roles in the workplace.

Recommended Configuration:
PC or Mac Laptop
Operating System: Microsoft Windows 7 or higher or latest OS
Processor: Multicore Intel or AMD processor. 64 bit.
RAM Memory: 4GB+
Hard Drive: 100GB+

Recommended Software: Word processor of your choice (Microsoft Office, Apple Pages, Google Docs, Libre Office)

Optional Software: Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, Celtx

When a PC is the better option:

- Game and Interactive Media Design

PCs are generally used by programmers, game designers and developers, and 3D modelers, animators and digital artists working in the game industry.

Recommended Configuration:
PC Laptop
Operating System: Windows 7 or higher
Processor: Multicore Intel or AMD processor. 64 bit.
GPU: Nvidia Geforce GTX 650 or higher
RAM Memory: 16GB
Hard Drive: 500GB+

Recommended Software: Word processor (Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Libre Office), Celtx

Optional Software (Games): Autodesk Entertainment Creation Suite (3ds Max Preferred)*, Blender, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, video game creation software (Unreal Engine, GameMaker, Gamebryo, Game Salad), video game recording software (Action or Fraps), Steam Account

*Autodesk provides free 3-year educational licenses to users with .edu email accounts.

When a Mac is the better option:

- Electronic Media Production
- Strategic Communication (Graphic Design and Creative Production)
- Journalism

The Mac platform is the computer of choice for producers, directors, writers, and editors in television and film and for creative teams at work in ad agencies.

Recommended Configuration:
Apple MacBook Pro Laptop
Operating System: latest version of OS
Processor: Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support
RAM Memory: 16GB
Drive space: 256+
Additional: 16GB class 10 SDHC memory card (For ELM and Journalism)

Recommended Hardware for ELM:
Lacie or G-Drive external hard drive with Thunderbolt or Firewire 800 support. (Prepare to pay in the $200 range)

Recommended Software: Word processor (Microsoft Office, Apple Pages, Google Docs, Libre Office), Celtx, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite (not needed until you start coursework)