



I. Purpose

The purpose of the laptop initiative is to assure that all students in the School of Computer and Information Sciences have adequate access to computing resources.

II. Hardware Requirements

The following are minimum specifications for the laptop computer a student should purchase. The estimated initial cost for this computer ranges from \$1000.00 to \$1500.00. Many suitable brands are available. Carefully consider service and support options as laptop maintenance is the responsibility of the student.

Processor:	Intel Based: T5200 or better AMD Based: Turion 64 X2 TL-60 or better
Operating System:	Microsoft Windows Vista Business or better (This can be obtained for free using the School of CIS MSDNAA license)
Hard Drive:	120GB or greater
RAM:	2GB minimum
Optical:	DVD-RW
Network:	Wired 10/100 and Wireless 802.11 via built-in or adapter. The School of CIS has a wireless 802.11 G network.
Cabling:	Ethernet cable

These are minimum specifications. Students may wish to add other options to their system. One obvious addition should be a laptop case. A USB thumb drive is an alternate means of moving large files can be very useful too. Other peripherals include a printer or an external USB floppy disk drive – some ultra-portable laptops lack a built-in one. Many locations on the campus are equipped with "wet ports" for student use. Our labs will include an AC power outlet and Ethernet 10/100 connector.

SPECIAL PRICING ON TOSHIBA LAPTOPS

GovConnection, a premier partner of IT Solutions for Government and Education, has partnered with TOSHIBA and the USA Bookstore to offer special pricing on laptop computers and tablet PC s for students in the School of CIS. The School of Computer and Information Sciences fully endorses this Toshiba line of laptops and Tablet PCs. Each of them meets the minimum specifications of the School's laptop ownership requirement. The School, in particular, recommends the tablet PC. Call the USA Bookstore at (251) 460-7012, option 2 for more information on purchasing laptops which meet the School of CIS requirements.

III. Software Requirements General Productivity

- Microsoft Windows Vista Business (not Home). This can be obtained for free using the School of CIS MSDNAA license.
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.) Academic-pricing is available. Microsoft Access is also required but can be downloaded for free using the School of CIS MSDNAA license.
- World Wide Web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera, Safari, etc.)
- Email client (Outlook Express, Outlook or web based)
- Anti-Virus (Norton, McAfee, AVG, etc)
- Utility Software (Winzip, WinRar, etc.)

Note: Students using open source Operating systems and tools such as Linux or Open Office are still responsible for courses which require use of specific Microsoft applications.

Course Specific

Students entering our programs will use their machine in the first programming class. The tools for the class are usually a combination of a language compiler and shareware tools. A free compiler can be downloaded or more advanced versions can be purchased from the USA Bookstore for less than \$100.00. The shareware tools can be obtained from the Student Chapter of the ACM at nominal or no cost. As students move through our curriculum, some classes may require course specific software. This software will be readily available through the USA Bookstore or other sources.

Other Sources

Many utilities and sample programs are available on a CD-ROM from the Student Chapter of the ACM. This disc is available for a nominal cost.

IV. Ownership Program

Proof of Ownership

To ensure that each entering student has a laptop, we will register your computer when you come to class. Each student will bring their laptop to class and provide information that it meets our requirements.

What to Expect

Some professors will indicate when you should bring your computer to class for activities. Students may choose to use their computer to take notes in appropriate situations. Use of the computer is mandatory in labs. Many activities have been designed to facilitate learning by working

through problems using the tools of the class. The lab assistant will provide guidance and assistance through these activities. Some professors may require use of the computer during testing and examinations. It is your responsibility to come to class with your computer prepared to participate as required.

Academic Misconduct

The use of computing technology makes cheating "easier." Some might be tempted to copy work from one student to another. This is academic misconduct or cheating and not tolerated. Copying material from other sources such as the library and the Web and submitting it as your own is also misconduct. Each class outlines the cheating policy for the course. In general, cheating will result in failure in the class for all involved parties.

Copying Software

The University and School policy is clear and enforced. We adhere to all copyright laws for all software. Students must have valid versions of the software on their machines. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary or legal action. Students are encouraged to read and understand the University Student Computer Policy as outlined in the current Lowdown.

V. Financial

The actual cost of the computer you purchase will depend upon what and when you buy. The prices of computers and software change rapidly. As a new student you must have your computer before you start classes.

Financial Aid

Meet with a counselor in Financial Aid to discuss your options.

Student Loans

Meet with a counselor in Financial Aid to discuss your options.

University Credit Union

The University Credit Union will make loans for computer purchases upon credit approval. Contact the University Credit Union for current plans and rates.

Vendor Credit

Many computer vendors offer lease and credit terms when purchasing their equipment. Contact your vendor directly for more information.

Other Sources

Don't overlook your "home town" bank as a source for personal loans.

VI. Important Numbers & Addresses

CIS Ownership Program

Website http://cis.usouthal.edu/laptop_policy.php

E-mail rjohnson@usouthal.edu

Phone 251-460-6390

Fax 251-460-7274

Hours M-F: 8am-5pm

Campus Bookstore

Website www.southalabama.edu/bookstore

E-mail usabookstore@usouthal.edu

Phone 251-460-7012

Hours M-T: 8am-6pm, W-F: 8am-5pm

Financial Office

Website www.finaid.usouthal.edu

E-mail finaid@usamail.usouthal.edu

Phone 251-460-6231

Fax 251-460-7024

Hours: M-T, R-F: 8am-5pm; W: 8:30am-5pm

University Credit Union

Website www.usafedcu.com

E-mail N/A

Phone 251-706-0255

Fax 251-706-0299