Frequently Asked Questions
Student Computer Policy

Can the cost of the computer be covered by my financial aid?

Students are strongly encouraged to pay for a computer purchase with existing financial aid funds or through their own resources. If this is not possible, the DUSON Financial Aid office allows students to borrow for the purchase of a computer.

For Graduate Students, we will offer an additional Grad PLUS loan. For ABSN students, we will increase your additional loan eligibility to allow for additional private loan borrowing. Students are allowed to borrow for a computer only once during their DUSON career. Documentation (receipt or written estimate) of the purchase is required. Contact the DUSON Financial Aid office to learn more.

Can I just use my iPad?

An iPad will not meet the requirement.

In the spring, 2012 semester, select DUSON students participated in a pilot to see if the iPad was an effective tool for use within DUSON programs. The study participants found that, while the iPad is an extremely effective tool for clinical work and general academic activities, such as taking notes in the classroom, it did not provide the functionality needed to fully use Sakai. Additionally, each of the study participants found it ineffective for writing scholarly papers in the format needed. Based on the results of this study, the School of Nursing determined that the iPad would not meet the computer requirement.

Can I just use the ones in the computer labs at school?

No. The School of Nursing computer lab will no longer be available beginning in the middle of May. While there are computer labs throughout Duke’s campus that are open to DUSON students, there are classroom sessions that require the use of a laptop computer for most DUSON programs. You will not be able to successfully participate in these activities without your own personal computer.

There are computer labs throughout Duke’s campus, most with ePrint stations that you can use just as you would the ePrint stations here at DUSON. We have a map detailing locations throughout the University near the printer stations.

Can I use the one I already have or do I need to purchase a new one?

We have found that almost all laptops purchased in the last few years meet the minimum specification. Some will provide slower response times, which is usually a function of how much internal memory or disk space is available. If you have any questions about your laptop, please contact our IT Service Desk at (919)684-9200 to be sure. We can help you determine if your laptop meets the standard and offer suggestions for improving performance if necessary.
Would you please provide me some links to sample computers that will meet the minimum computer specification for students?

Here are some links to popular computer distributors that have laptops meeting the standard. This is not an exhaustive list and we have included links to computers in various price ranges. Generally, if it can run Windows 7, Windows 8 or OS X, you are fine.

Duke Technology Center:
http://epos1-phx.sequoiars.com/ePOS?form=index.html&store=709

Best Buy:
http://www.bestbuy.com/site/Laptop-Computers/PC+Laptops/pcmcat247400050000.c?id=pcmcat247400050000

Target:

Walmart:
http://www.walmart.com/browse/computers/laptop-computers/3944_3951_132960/_reneresult=true&facet=laptop_screen_size%3A11%60%60+-+14%60%60%7C%7Csystem_ram%3A4+GB&ic=32_0&path=0%3A3944%3A3951%3A1089430&prov=cat1089430-env427754-moduleB122512-LinkZone2_ShopLaptopsbyScreenSize11into14inLaptops

I am a distance education student and will only come to campus a few days each semester, can I just use my desktop?

No. Some of the classroom sessions that you will attend while on campus will require that you have a laptop computer.

I live on campus and will not be taking any on-line classes. Do I still need to get a laptop?

Yes. Some of the classroom sessions you will attend will require that you have a laptop computer.

My computer meets the specifications, but I need to upgrade the software, what should I do?

All of the software you need is available from Duke University. Our IT Service Desk will assist you in installing all of the required software.

If I have access problems, or my computer won’t work, will the helpdesk be available for students?

Your DUSON IT Service Desk has laptops that we can loan students who have access problems or their computers have suddenly stopped working. The loaners are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis for the duration of class for any classes requiring the use of a laptop (such as ATI Testing).
This policy was established after I became a DUSON student. I do not have the resources to purchase a laptop. Without a computer lab, how will you ensure that I have a computer for classroom sessions that will require a laptop computer?

The DUSON IT Service Desk has laptops that we can loan students for individual class sessions, including those involving on campus testing. Students are required to reserve a laptop several days prior to a class requiring a computer. This reservation process helps us make sure that we have enough loaners available for a specific class. The loaners are available for the duration of the class requiring the use of a laptop (such as ATI Testing). Students enrolled who do not have access to a PC or laptop out of class or off campus and who do not have the resources to purchase one are encouraged to submit documentation of loan denial or letter of financial hardship to the DUSON Financial Aid Office. In some cases, students enrolled as of the spring 2013 or previous semesters may be eligible for a reconditioned loaner laptop to be used for an entire semester provided by your DUSON IT Service Desk.