

**UTHSC College of Nursing**  
**Computer and Software Requirements and Recommendations**  
**For Students Starting Coursework in Summer 2010**  
**(revised November 2009)**

Below is a list of minimum hardware and software requirements and recommendations that your computer and software should meet or exceed. Your professors will be using similar hardware and software and expect you to do the same. Students whose computers do not meet the requirements will not be able to receive the same level of support as those who do.

Please note that each incoming student must have her or his laptop computer **BEFORE** the start of Nursing's on-campus technology orientation that is scheduled for the week that classes begin and bring it every day of technology orientation. This is very important because part of orientation is dedicated to helping students properly set up the laptop for school use.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Part of the College of Nursing's computer requirement is that students' computers must have the Windows operating system. This requirement mirrors the structure set forth by the university's Computing Center and also ensures that students' computers will be compatible with all the software applications they will be asked to use during their programs of study.

Students who choose to have a Macintosh computer will be responsible for making sure their non-Windows computer can perform all required tasks and run all necessary applications as specified by this document AND their individual professors. For example, if a student's professor asked him or her to install Microsoft Office Access, then the student would need to know that Access is not Mac-compatible and be able to make alternative arrangements for using the software (ex., installing Parallels or Boot Camp and then installing Access on the Windows side of the computer).

**TIPS FOR PURCHASING/OBTAINING A COMPUTER:** We would like to offer the following tips based on our years of experience working with new students and their computers:

1. Take a good, honest look at your computer. If it is several years old or does not meet all of the requirements below, go ahead and invest in a new computer **prior** to the start of classes. Each year we see a handful of students who start their programs with a marginal machine and find after a few weeks that the computer is inadequate or it crashes. They are then saddled with the task of buying a new computer and getting it ready for use while also trying to keep up with schoolwork. This leads to a great deal of stress as well as lost energy and time attempting to repair the old computer. While money is always a concern, it is not worth it to save a few bucks in the beginning only to have to spend it later, when you will lose a lot more than just money. Like your tuition, your computer is an investment in your education and should be treated as such.
2. Do not allow your children to use your school computer. Again, we've seen many students run into computer problems when their children make changes on their computers or surf the Web and pick up a variety of viruses and malware.
3. If you are not knowledgeable about computer parts and components, do not purchase a used computer. It is best to buy a new computer, as you will know that it is ready for use right out of the box and covered by warranty should anything go wrong.

**MINIMUM LAPTOP COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Computer type</b>	Laptop (aka, notebook or tablet)
<b>Platform</b>	PC/Windows. <b>No Apple/Macintosh computers – see IMPORTANT NOTE above</b>
<b>Processor</b>	All types are acceptable.
<b>Processor speed</b>	1.5GHz or faster
<b>Operating system</b>	Windows XP Professional Edition ( <b>no other XP editions</b> ), any edition of Windows Vista, or any edition of Windows 7 <b>NOTE:</b> SAS, a data-analysis software required for our PhD students who will be taking

the biostatistics class here at UTHSC, does **not** install on computers with the Home editions of any Windows operating systems. We suggest the Professional, Business, or Ultimate editions of any of the above-listed operating systems if you plan to install SAS on your computer.

<b>RAM/Memory</b>	1GB RAM for Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7 32-bit computers 2GB RAM for Windows 7 64-bit computers <b>NOTE:</b> The requirements above reflect Microsoft's minimum system requirements for the listed operating systems. However, to maximize your computer's performance and speed, we <b>strongly recommend</b> getting <b>at least 2GB RAM, or more if you can afford it</b> , for any Windows 7 or Windows Vista computer.
<b>Hard disk capacity</b>	128GB or higher <b>NOTE:</b> SAS, a data-analysis software required for our PhD students who will be taking the biostatistics class here at UTHSC, requires about 12GB of space during the installation process and about 5GB of space once the installation is complete AND the temporary installer files have been deleted. This could be an issue on older computers with smaller hard drives.
<b>Screen size</b>	Any size with which the student is comfortable
<b>Audio</b>	All sound cards are acceptable.
<b>Video</b>	All video cards are acceptable.
<b>Media drive</b>	CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive (allows reading and burning of CDs and reading of DVDs) OR DVD±RW drive (allows reading and burning of both CDs and DVDs)
<b>Modem</b>	Integrated (built-in) 56K modem <b>NOTE:</b> <u>Required only if using dial-up connection for Internet access</u>
<b>Ethernet</b>	Integrated (built-in) Ethernet capability for use with LAN network or DSL/cable modem Internet service
<b>Wireless</b>	Integrated (built-in) wireless capability compatible with b, g, and/or n frequencies
<b>USB ports</b>	Three or more
<b>Warranty</b>	Two (2) years or more of coverage. <b>NOTE:</b> Your laptop will come with a one-year warranty. Thus, you will have to buy at least one extra year of warranty when purchasing your laptop to meet this requirement. This will cover parts replacement and some technical support. (This requirement is in place because a laptop's portability makes it more vulnerable to damage than a desktop computer.) <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> You may want to consider a three-year warranty if your program is three (3) years or longer in duration.
<b>Carrying case</b>	Any brand of high-quality case designed specifically to carry a laptop. Consider bag size (Can it handle your laptop <i>and</i> accessories?), compartments (Does it have the number of pockets you want?), mobility issues (Do you want to roll it, carry it backpack-style, or have a handle and shoulder strap?), and weight. <b>NOTE:</b> Many laptops come with a carrying case. Check this before purchasing a carrying case separately.

## **LAPTOP COMPUTER ACCESSORY RECOMMENDATIONS**

These are items students may want or need based on their courses and/or personal preferences.

<b>Printer</b>	Any brand of high-quality inkjet or laser printer or multifunction printer/scanner/copier/fax (We recommend Hewlett Packard.)
<b>USB flash drive</b>	A flash drive (also known as a JumpDrive or thumb drive) is a portable storage device that allows you to take documents and files with you. It plugs into a USB port on a computer. We recommend that it have at least 4GB of storage space.
<b>Webcam</b>	Any brand with USB connector (We recommend Logitech.) <b>NOTE:</b> Speak with your professors prior to purchase to see if you will need this for classes.
<b>Headset with microphone</b>	Any brand with USB connector (We recommend Logitech.) <b>NOTE:</b> Speak with your professors prior to purchase to see if you will need this for classes.

## **MINIMUM INTERNET SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

You must have access to the Internet via one of the following methods:

- DSL (ex., BellSouth)
- Cable modem (ex., Comcast)
- Satellite (ex., DirecTV)
- Dial-up (ex., AOL or EarthLink dial-up)

**NOTE:** We do not recommend dial-up unless it is the only service available in your area. Your classes will require you to access and download many large multimedia and other types of files that are very time-intensive or virtually impossible to retrieve via dial-up due to its low connection speed.

**FOR AOL USERS:** If using AOL as your Internet service provider (ISP), do not use the browser that is integrated into AOL when trying to access UT systems. We have found that many users have problems when doing this. Instead, use AOL only to get your Internet connection, and then use Internet Explorer or another Web browser that is installed directly on your computer to browse the Internet.

## **MINIMUM SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Microsoft Office 2007**, any edition (ex., Student and Teacher, Professional Plus, etc.) that includes the following programs:

- Microsoft Word, for word processing
- Microsoft Excel, for spreadsheets
- Microsoft PowerPoint, for presentations

This software is **NOT free**. However, the UT General Stores sells this product at a significant discount to students. For more details and pricing, call UT General Stores at 901-448-6152 or go to [http://www.uthsc.edu/gen\\_store](http://www.uthsc.edu/gen_store).

## **2. Antivirus software – IMPORTANT NOTICE BELOW! PLEASE READ BEFORE ACQUIRING YOUR ANTIVIRUS PROGRAM!**

The university is in the process of implementing tighter security measures for its networks. This change may affect the brands of antivirus programs that students are allowed to have on their laptops while accessing the UT wireless network, which you probably will be doing frequently. As of Nov. 30, 2009, the decision has not been made about which brands will be allowed. Because of this, we ask that you **do not purchase any antivirus that you plan to use beyond June 2010**, as it may not be allowed on the UT network. Alternatives to purchasing an antivirus program include using a free antivirus program or using the free trial version of an antivirus program that

comes pre-installed on your computer or can be downloaded from the companies' websites. Common antivirus program brands include Norton, McAfee, and Trend Micro.

**3. TWO (2) Web browsers** – You must have at least two different browsers installed on your computer. This is important because if something goes wrong with your primary browser, a second browser often is needed to troubleshoot the problem. Also, some pages display or perform better in one browser than another. All browsers listed below are **free**.

- **Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 8 or higher** (comes pre-installed on your computer – can be updated to newer versions via Windows Update)

**AND**

- **Mozilla Firefox, version 3.5 or higher** (<http://www.mozilla.com>) OR other reputable browser

#### **4. Adobe Reader, version 9 or higher**

This software, which reads PDF files, often comes pre-installed on many machines. If your computer does not have it, you can download it for **free** at the Adobe website (<http://www.adobe.com>).

**NOTE:** If you have Adobe Acrobat (the PDF-maker software that is not free), then you do not have to have Adobe Reader installed separately. Acrobat will read as well as create PDF documents.

**5. TWO (2) multimedia/audio players** – **BOTH** of the following **free** video and audio players should be installed on your computer:

- **Windows Media Player** comes pre-installed on your computer and can be updated to newer versions via Windows Update.
- **Apple QuickTime, version 7.6 or higher** (<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>) – You will have the choice to download QuickTime only or both QuickTime and iTunes together. Choose the dual download only if you plan to use iTunes.

**6. EndNote, version X3 or higher** (**REQUIRED FOR DNP AND PHD STUDENTS ONLY!!!**) – This software provides an easy way to “search online bibliographic databases; organize references, images, and PDFs in any language; and create bibliographies and figure lists instantly.” (<http://www.endnote.com>)

This software is **NOT free**. However, the UT General Stores sells this product at a significant discount to students. For more details and pricing, call UT General Stores at 901-448-6152 or go to [http://www.uthsc.edu/gen\\_store](http://www.uthsc.edu/gen_store).

**NOTE:** The EndNote software is updated relatively frequently, about once every one to two years. Because of such frequent version changes, if you are required to have this software, we strongly recommended that you wait until right before your classes start to purchase EndNote so that you will have the most recent version.

**7. SAS, version 9.2 Phase 2, or higher** (**REQUIRED FOR PHD STUDENTS ONLY!!!**) – This data-analysis software will be used in the PhD-level Biostatistics course and for work thereafter.

This software is **NOT free**. To purchase a SAS license and obtain the license file (which is sent to your UT email address and will be used during the installation process), please contact the UT-Knoxville (UTK) Computer Store at 865-974-2930. To download the SAS installation files, go to <http://oit.utk.edu/software> to the Internet Downloads section of the page. (If you have a slow Internet connection, you can purchase a three-disc DVD version of SAS from the Computer Store. Go to <http://utbookstore.tennessee.edu/uccs> for more details.

**NOTE:** The following are important if installing SAS on your computer:

- SAS cannot be installed on computers with the Home editions of any Windows operating systems. It is compatible with the following operating systems, according to the UTK Office of Information Technology's (OIT) instructions for installing SAS 9.2 Phase 2:

- Microsoft Windows (32-bit and 64-bit) XP Professional, Service Pack 2 or Service Pack 3
- Microsoft Windows (32-bit and 64-bit) Vista – Enterprise, Business, and Ultimate editions
- As of Nov. 30, 2009, SAS does not support the Windows 7 operating system. HOWEVER, according to information on the SAS website, mainstream support for Windows 7 is projected to be available in the first half of 2010. (We suspect that, like with other Windows operating systems, SAS will not install on the Home Edition of Windows 7.)
- SAS requires about 12GB of space during the installation process and about 5GB of space once the installation is complete AND the temporary installer files have been deleted. This could be an issue on older computers with smaller hard drives.

**NOTE FOR NON-PHD STUDENTS WHO WANT TO USE SAS:** All students can access UTK's analysis server for **free** and use its SAS installation. The software runs on the server, but students can use it to analyze data stored on their own computers.

---

If you have questions or concerns about this information, please contact the following members of Nursing's Innovative Technology Services (ITS) group:

**Vikki M. Massey:** [vmercerc@uthsc.edu](mailto:vmercerc@uthsc.edu) or 901-448-8040  
**Tonya L. Brown:** [tlbrown@uthsc.edu](mailto:tlbrown@uthsc.edu) or 901-448-5902  
(Toll-free for both: 1-800-733-2498)