**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
**UIC Information Technology**

# Recommended hardware specifications for Academic Year 2024-25

Students entering the UIC School of Public Health are encouraged to use the following recommendations as a guideline when purchasing a computer for use as part of their studies.

General computing usage while in your academic program includes the use of statistical software. In particular, all MPH students are required to use SAS statistical software as part of their curriculum for at least one semester. For most MPH students, this will be during your first semester of study. While the school and university have computer labs on campus, computer availability during peak times can be limited due to high demand.

## Hardware recommendations

It is highly recommended that students own a Windows 11-based personal computer. Some programs you will have to use, such as SAS, will not run natively on iOS and other software, such as ArcGIS, will not run on iOS at all.

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| Processor | **Intel 9th Gen Core i5** (or AMD equivalent) at a minimum. If you will be doing extensive graphics work (visualizations, etc.) a **Core i7 or greater** is recommended. |
| Operating System | **Windows 11 Pro or Education versions** (Home version is not recommended)<br><br>**Mac OS 14.7 (not recommended, see additional considerations below)** |
| Hard Drive | **256 SSD or 500 GB mechanical drive** (minimum) |
| Memory (RAM) | **16GB** (8GB minimum) |
| Video display | **14" display size with 1920*1080 HDMI digital video output** (minimum) |
| Communication | **Webcam and microphone** (internal or external, either is fine) |
| Warranty | **3-4 Years parts and labor & accident protection** (recommended) |
| Wireless | **802.11ac support recommended with WPA2-AES encryption and 802.1x PEAP-MSCHAPv2 authentication. See** https://help.uillinois.edu/TDClient/37/uic/KB/ArticleDet?ID=906 **for more info** |
| Security | **TPM 2.0 support is required to implement data encryption** |
| Region | **Manufactured for U.S. use; other regions are not guaranteed to work** |

## Additional hardware considerations

- Locally installed versions of Base SAS (either student or professional) will only run on the Windows operating system. If you are using a Mac, you will need to use Parallels (extra cost) as well as install a copy of Windows (extra cost) in order to run Base SAS. Some programs, such as ArcGIS, will not run on a Mac even with Parallels. Your purchasing decision should be made in light of the potential additional cost and technical issues you may encounter by using a Mac platform.
- Using a solid-state drive (SSD) will significantly improve performance. Upgrading from a standard 5400 rpm mechanical hard disk drive to a 7200 rpm will improve performance if you do not choose to use an SSD.
- At a minimum, your screen size should be no less than 14". Larger screens provide higher resolution and allow more information to be on the screen at one time. For intensive writing work, a full size keyboard is recommended.
- **Tablets** (Apple's iPad, Samsung's Galaxy Tab, Motorola's Zoom), **Chromebooks**, and **Netbooks** (super small laptops with limited memory and processing power) are not appropriate as they do not meet the minimum requirements for the software you will need to use.

## Software and hardware purchasing discounts at the university

While you are a student at UIC SPH, you are eligible to receive a free subscription to Microsoft Office 365, ArcGIS, and a Windows 10/11 upgrade (if you have a previous version of Windows). In addition, significant discounts on other software such as SAS, SPSS, and Stata are available for purchase on-line at the University of Illinois Webstore (http:// webstore.uillinois.edu) once you are registered for classes.

The campus bookstores (on both the east and west sides) have Windows and Mac OS laptops that should meet the minimum recommended standard. The discounted pricing may be better than you can get at other outlets.

**Note**: You will want to obtain your university-related software via the Webstore http://webstore.uillinois.edu, **not at the bookstore**, as the campus provides the free software and preferred software pricing **online only**.

**We strongly recommend you do not purchase any software until you know what will be required in your classes as software is almost always a non-returnable item.**