



Welcome to the Information Technology department in the School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies. Students enrolling in an information technology major must have a laptop/notebook computer for IT major courses (CIT/IAS) 160 and higher. Placement test results determine eligibility for enrolling in these courses.

Minimum Computing Requirements:

- Laptop capable of running the current version of Windows or MAC OSX or Linux and accessing current wireless technology.
- Special operating systems may be provided by the IT program through virtual machine images (typically VMWare). Students must verify with the manufacturer/vendor that their laptop supports virtualization.
- Many classes require the running of multiple virtual machine servers. Therefore, all laptops should possess at least 4GB of RAM and a processor speed of at least 2GHz.
- Students enrolling in the Game and Simulation Programming B.S. degree (BSP) should possess a laptop with a gaming level video card. All graphics card manufacturers, including ATI and Nvidia, offer a range of different graphics cards made specifically for gaming laptops. Choose one such card according to budget and hardware specifications.

Note: Due to the rapid advancements in computing technology, the IT faculty recommends that all students plan to upgrade their laptop prior to the start of their third year of study. This can be accomplished by purchasing two modestly priced laptops (during years 1 and 3) rather than one expensive laptop (in year 1).

Recommended Peripherals:

- DVD-RW Drive
- External, USB powered hard drive
- Extra battery pack
- Keyboard and pointing device
- Carrying case
- Integrated Ethernet adapter

Software requirements:

- Most recent version of Microsoft Office. This software will be provided to you at no cost as a Penn College student.
- Penn College provides a suite of utility software that you should download and install on your laptop prior to the first day of classes. This software can be found at: <http://www.pct.edu/its/FreeDownloadsDiscounts.htm>.
- Authentication may be needed for some downloads. This can be accomplished by logging in to the site with your Penn College network username and password, which you will receive in the mail after your tuition deposit is received. Some downloads may not be authorized until after your tuition bill is satisfied.
- Additional software requirements will be specified on individual CIT course syllabi.

Purchase Options:

- As a Penn College student, you are eligible to purchase software through the Penn State Computer Store. For more information, visit <http://software.psu.edu/>