Software Systems Developer (SSD) Program

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD): September 2025 Laptop Specifications

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) at **BCIT** enables students to access campus computing resources and complete coursework using their personal devices. The SSD Program in the Department of Computing participates in this initiative, requiring students to bring their own laptops to school each day for on-campus instruction.

BYOD Computing Device Requirements for the SSD Program

As you train to work in the computing field, your computer will be your primary tool for learning during the SSD program and beyond. Investing in a quality device that meets or exceeds the recommended specifications will ensure a smoother learning experience and serve you well in your future career.

All incoming students must provide their own computing device for classroom use that meet or exceed the minimum requirements listed below.

Minimum requirements for at-home connectivity:

- A reliable high-speed internet connection with 10-25 Mbps (up/down) bandwidth. This will provide a smoother experience, especially if multiple applications, video calls, or large file transfers are involved.

Minimum requirements for all devices:

- A **Laptop** with an integrated keyboard and a **15-17" screen** (HD 1920x1080 resolution).
  A 13–14" screen is acceptable but larger is preferred.

- **16GB RAM**.

- **512GB SSD**.

- **Wi-Fi** wireless networking.

- Current **Chrome** or **Safari** or **Firefox** web browser installed.

- **Headphones** (earbuds or Air Pods are fine) for watching tutorial videos in class.

- Built-in **camera**, **speakers**, and **Bluetooth**.

- Two or more **USB ports**.

- **HDMI** port.

Operating System

- Windows 10 or 11 Operating System, 64-bit version of Pro/Enterprise/Education.

  SSD students have access to free educational licenses for most Microsoft software and do not need to purchase Windows 11 if their laptop meets the minimum specifications but runs an older version of Windows. Once classes begin, students will be provided with access to a copy of Windows 11, which they can install on their existing computer.

  The SSD program uses the Windows platform as a teaching environment. Windows 10 Pro or newer is required. While Mac and Linux operating systems are acceptable for many courses, they may present challenges in courses that focus on the installation, administration, and configuration of MS Windows. The use of alternate operating systems is not supported.

FAQs

Do I need a computer on the very first day?

> Yes, and every day after that.

Can I use a less capable computer?

> Maybe. It really depends on your tolerance for slow response times and performance.

Can I use a tablet instead of a laptop?

> No. Tablets are primarily designed for content consumption. Since students will be creating content, tablets (such as iPads, Android devices, or Surface devices without keyboards) are not suitable for this program.

I have to carry my computer on transit, and I would like to carry a smaller one. How will this impact my learning?

> SSD courses often require students to work across multiple applications, and larger screens are optimal for this. Additionally, instructors need to clearly see students' work to provide feedback, which can be difficult with smaller screens and font sizes.

SSD costs a lot more than HDD. Why do you recommend SSD?

> An **SSD** is recommended for better performance. While a 500GB SSD may cost more, SSDs and extra RAM offer the best performance. A **256GB SSD** is preferred over a 500GB HDD, with the option to add external storage if needed.

You did not recommend CPU type or speed. Is there a minimum?

> For the types of work you will be doing, performance is most likely limited by drive I/O (SSD recommended), RAM (more is better) and network speed (card throughput). Any consumer PC which meets the specifications listed above will have a processor that is adequate.

Do I need a new computer – or can I bring a previously used one?

> A used computer is perfectly fine as long as it meets the minimum specifications and is in working order. However, please be sure to completely wipe and reformat the hard drive before beginning the program, as old software can cause problems.

Do I need a laptop with a touch screen?

> No, a touch screen is not required for the SSD program.

Is there a preferred brand, model – or recommended computer store?

> Students come with pretty much every brand and model you can imagine. In the past the only students who have had difficulties are those who showed up with old "used and abused" laptops, or with laptops that did not meet the recommended specifications. We have seen it all, from broken screens to keys that don't work to batteries that won't hold a charge to fans that no longer spin.

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