COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS 2020 / 2021

Because of the many software applications that we learn and use throughout the year in MPAcc, all of our students are required to have up-to-date computers. You may be able to use your existing laptop - Please read the necessary specifications below.

HOW TO FIND YOUR LAPTOP'S SPECIFICATIONS:
PC (Windows 10): https://www.drivereasy.com/knowledge/how-to-find-computer-specs-windows-10/
Mac (OS-X): https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-find-your-macs-basic-specs-in-os-x/
If you are using an operating system older than Windows 10, but on a powerful laptop, you will need to upgrade to Windows 10 to make the most of the analytics and automation software.

FOR MAC USERS

Based on prior experience, we don't recommend that you purchase a Mac. There is a potential workaround for newer more powerful Macs by using the boot camp assistant to install windows 10 (note that this can use up 50% of your hard drive space). Newer PC models in the $600+ range will likely meet the minimum requirements, current Mac models starting at $1299+ are expected to work with a windows 10 installation (see below for more details).

If you are planning on buying a new laptop, you can skip to the section recommended specifications below.

Notes on using a Mac Airbook or Powerbook:
- We have found that students have encountered numerous problems running some analytics and all automation software on Apple products.
- Using Mac Airbook or PowerBook requires additional hardware space to allow for a second operating system to be installed.
- You will need storage size of at least 256GB, allowing for 128GB to be used for Windows 10. According to Apple, 64GB is the minimum required for the installation of Windows 10, 128GB is recommended.
- Instructions about Boot Camp Assistant are available here: https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201468
- Installing Windows 10 via Boot Camp Assistant is expected to be a workaround, but still may not perform some features, see the UI Path documentation for example: https://www.uipath.com/community/rpa-community-blog/how-to-use-uipath-studio-on-mac.

FOR PC USERS

Recommended specifications for PC-based laptops:
- CPU minimum 1.4GHz 32-bit (x86), recommended Dual-Core 1.8GHz 64-bit.
- 4 GB RAM minimum (necessary for UIPath software) / 8-16GB recommended (recommended for Tableau).
- Min screen resolution of 1024x768 (necessary for UI Path).
- Windows 10 operating system (necessary for UI Path & Alteryx).

If your current PC-based laptop meets these specifications, you should be able to install and use all necessary software, assuming you have enough space on your hard drive (90-100GB of hard drive space is recommended). If you plan on purchasing a laptop, there are many laptops that meet these specifications. Some examples include:
- The Dell Latitude 3500 Business Laptop range includes many good options that meet the minimum requirements.
- Lenovo is the ThinkPad E590 Laptop.

A FEW OTHER POINTS:
- Note that the size of the screen doesn't determine the resolution. Common laptop screen sizes range from 13 inches to 15 inches.
- Some of the software we use will be noticeably faster with additional RAM, especially with the larger data sets we use.
- SSD stands for Solid State Drive, SATA hard drives have spinning components. All else equal, choose SSD as it is both faster and less likely to fail.
- Please buy a laptop in the U.S. and not a foreign laptop, in the past students have encountered additional problems with foreign laptops due to system defaults (including language and decimals).
- Any other features above the minimums, such as touch screen features of the Microsoft Surface and surface-like laptops (like the Dell 3390 2-in-1) are not necessary, but shouldn't cause any issues (we don't know of any from prior students). Note that you want to follow the recommended specifications for PC-based laptops, some surfaces have limited RAM which impact Tableau load times.
- Many PC laptops come with trial subscriptions to Microsoft Office, please note that you can download the Microsoft Office Suite using your UW ID & password by signing into Office 365 (which also provides the online versions of Microsoft Office).
- We will provide further guidance regarding software at orientation.

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