

OME Computer Guide

What equipment do I need?

- **Computer** - UC Davis School of Medicine expects each student to own a computer that meets [minimum performance standards](#). Educators will expect you to have access to a computer, and you will be responsible for computer-related class assignments and activities.
- **Smartphone** - UC Davis uses Duo, a multifactor authentication tool that keeps our accounts and information secure. A smartphone is the easiest and most convenient way to authenticate with Duo. See [KB0003474](#) for more information.

I already have a computer. Can I use it?

Check the [recommended computer configurations](#), which are updated each spring. In general, the older the computer, the more likely you will run into problems and need to upgrade.

Can I get financial aid to help purchase a computer?

The Financial Aid Office has a [Computer Purchase Program](#) that may provide eligible financial aid recipients with a loan to purchase a computer.

Should I buy a laptop or a desktop?

Laptops are recommended due to their portability and use in the classroom and exam settings.

I'm going to buy a new computer. Should I buy an Apple or a Windows-based system?

The campus supports both Apple and PC-compatible computer platforms. The performance differences between Macs and PCs are minimal, especially as much of the systems you'll interface with are web-based and not reliant on the operating system. Both should meet your basic word processing, spreadsheet, and Internet needs.

Can I use a Chromebook or Surface?

Exams within the school of medicine require technology that is not available on Chromebooks or more mobile friendly devices with ARM processors. A Windows or macOS device with a processor outlined in the minimum performance standards guide is recommended.

Can I borrow or rent a computer from UC Davis?

No, the campus does not have a computer lending program for long-term use.