

**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.

**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.

**Should I buy a laptop or a desktop?**

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

**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 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.

**Can I borrow or rent a computer from UC Davis?**

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