

# Laptop and Software Requirements



Even with open access to computer lab PCs, KGI requires that all students have a personal laptop computer and specified software. Students are required to use computers frequently for communications and academic activities. Access to the Internet is also very important for supplementing course materials. Many internal KGI network resources can be accessed from the internet. If you already own a laptop computer it needs to run Windows 7 or Windows 8, have a wireless network connection, Java JRE and up-to-date antivirus software. If you are considering the purchase of a new laptop here are some answers to common questions:

**Where to buy?** - Purchasing a system from one of the major vendors such as Dell, HP, Lenovo, or Toshiba is recommended since they have excellent systems, longer warranties, and convenient Internet support. The warranty and the vendors' guaranteed response times are especially important for laptops. A 3-year warranty is highly recommended since laptop components are particularly expensive to fix. **The Claremont Colleges Huntley Bookstore sells many laptop brands.**

**When to buy?** - All new students are required to have a laptop in time for new student orientation.

**Can I get a discount through KGI?** - Unfortunately, no. The PC market is so competitive and vendor margins are so low that we would need to purchase hundreds of laptops in order to get a significant discount. Most of the vendors do offer a small discount for students. Search for education links on the vendor web sites.

**Are there compatibility issues to worry about?** – KGI is a PC Windows environment. Anyone choosing to use an Apple MacBook laptop is required to use Apple's Boot Camp or a virtualization product such as VMware Fusion or Parallels Desktop with Microsoft Windows installed. KGI Help Desk support for Apple MacBook laptops will be minimal at best.

**What specific components should I look for?** - Requirements and suggestions are listed below.

**CPU** - An Intel i3, i5 or i7 processor is required. ***Lower end processors such as ARM (used in the Microsoft Surface RT tablet) will not run all required software.***

**RAM** - Minimum 4 GB is required. Your money is well spent on RAM. If you can afford more, you'll have an easier time running simultaneous applications.

**Disk** - Minimum 128 GB is required. For normal usage this size is adequate, although drive space can disappear amazingly fast if you spend a lot of time downloading files from the Internet. Storing photos and videos also takes a lot of disk space.

**DVD or cloud storage (Dropbox, iCloud, etc).** To backup your data and to store large files such as photos and videos.

**Wireless Network** – A wireless network adapter is required. Wireless access points have been installed throughout the KGI buildings.

**Screen** - Personal choice and budget will dictate the screen size, resolution and touch capability.

**External monitors and data projectors** - All KGI projectors require a VGA cable. If your laptop does not have a VGA port for connecting to external monitors and projectors you will need to purchase a VGA adapter that will connect to your laptop if you want to connect your laptop to a projector.

**Operating System - *Windows 7 or Windows 8 is required*** (even on Apple MacBook laptops).

**Miscellaneous - *A webcam and headset with microphone are required for web conferencing.***

**Software** – Antivirus software is required in order to access the KGI network. Free antivirus packages are available such as AVG Free at <http://free.avg.com/> or Microsoft Security Essentials at <http://www.microsoft.com/security/pc-security/mse.aspx>. You should also seriously consider turning on the firewall application that exists in your operating system. You will not be allowed to connect your laptop to the KGI network without an updated antivirus package and the latest Microsoft patches.

Good anti-spyware software is now freely available and highly recommended. The KGI IT department has used Spybot Search & Destroy and Spyware Blaster programs to fend off unwanted adware.

**Required academic hardware & software** - The following items are required for KGI coursework. Prices are approximate and do not include sales tax.

- i>clicker remote. About \$40 from Huntley Bookstore.



- Microsoft Office, Project, Visio - free download from <https://kgi.onthehub.com/>
- Matlab (MBS students only) - \$100 from Huntley Bookstore. Do not purchase until you actually need it for a class.

**Recommended academic software** - The following packages are recommended for KGI coursework. Prices are approximate and do not include sales tax. Do not purchase until you actually need it for a class.

- Solidworks (Windows only) - \$100 from Huntley Bookstore
- Endnote (Windows only) - \$100 from Huntley Bookstore
- Adobe Acrobat Pro - \$120 from Huntley Bookstore

The Huntley Bookstore partners with JourneyEd for software sales allowing you to purchase online from <http://efollett.journeyed.com/landingPg/>. Select "Claremont College" from the list of schools. You will be required to provide proof of student status.

If you have more specific questions, please feel free to email me.

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