

PC Recommendations for Students

Windows or Mac? What Should I Buy?

Taylor's network is based on the Windows Server environment. For this reason, Windows-based computers offer a more seamless user experience. However, students using Macintosh and Linux-based computers have access to all academic resources required to complete their degree. It really comes down to preference. You might also consider whether Mac or Windows is predominant in your selected area of study.

Which PC Manufacturer is Best?

In terms of dependability and service, most brands offer a choice of quality and price, and most name brands offer good value. One strategy suggests investing in a higher-end device which will last the student's entire Taylor career. Another strategy suggests purchasing less expensive equipment and replacing it after two or three years.

Suggested Configuration

Whatever computer you choose, Client Services recommends the following for student use:

- A minimum of 4 GB of RAM.
- 1 year warranty or better
- Microsoft Office (students are eligible for discounts)
- Virus protection for Windows and Macintosh. Several companies offer free solutions.

Will I Need Other Software?

Beyond virus protection, this depends on which classes you take. Most students find that Microsoft Office provides everything they need. Some professors require students to use [Respondus LockDown Browser](#) (free) during tests, while some require subject-specific software such as SPSS (free) or PhotoShop (must purchase). Before you buy, speak with your professor.

Note: Taylor has an agreement with Microsoft through which current students and employees are eligible to purchase the latest version of Microsoft Office and a few other packages at reduced prices. See <http://4040.taylor.edu/specialoffers.html> for more information.

It is important to know that peer-to-peer file sharing is not allowed at Taylor. Although the technology used to share files is legal, a large percentage of the content currently shared on the Internet is being copied and distributed illegally. For this reason, Taylor prohibits the use of any peer-to-peer software. Several 'pay for' music and video sites, however, are accessible from the Taylor network. Before your arrival on campus, uninstall all peer-to-peer software.

Where Will I Print?

Printing is available in computer labs and the Technology & Learning Connection (Zondervan Library) for a small fee. Each student is credited \$30 free printing at the start of their Taylor career. For in-room printing, some students choose to bring their own printer and share it with their roommates. Taylor recommends laser printers for personal use.

What Computing Rules Will I Be Asked to Follow?

Taylor's [Life Together Covenant](#) is an integral part of your Christian education. As a member of Taylor's community, students are expected to abide by university policies covering topics such as Acceptable Computer Use and Wireless Networking.

What If I Have More Questions?

Client Services (also known as 4040) provides free technology support to students. You can reach 4040 via:

- Walk Up: Technology & Learning Connection on the main level of Zondervan Library
- Phone: (765) 998-4040 or toll-free at (866) 694-1385
- Email: 4040@taylor.edu
- Web: <http://4040.taylor.edu>