

The Ohio State University College of Engineering

Suggested Minimum Personal Computer Features

A Reference for Prospective Engineering Students

The OSU College of Engineering endorses and maintains a predominantly Windows/Intel PC environment. Most computers within the College use a version of Microsoft's XP® operating system. The following computer related information is offered as a guideline for individuals anticipating an academic career at The Ohio State University in the College of Engineering.

A DESKTOP computer with *at least the following*:

1. Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor or equivalent, 2 GHz
2. 512 MB Memory
3. 40 GB Hard Drive, (with 20 GB available)
4. 64 MB OpenGL-capable graphics video card
5. An LCD type monitor with 15 inch display*
6. Ethernet Network Interface Card (NIC)**

Or,

A NOTEBOOK computer, with *at least the following*:

1. Intel® Pentium® M Processor or equivalent, 1.5 GHz
2. 512 MB Memory
3. 40 GB Hard Drive, (with 20 GB available)
4. 64 MB OpenGL-capable graphics video
5. 14 inch display
6. Ethernet Network Interface (NIC)**
7. Wireless Networking Adaptor (802.11 b/g)***

Note that the above suggestions are **MINIMUMS**. The features are 'driven' by the assumed use of Autodesk Inventor® Pro software, and The MathWorks MATLAB® software as used in the OSU First-year Engineering Program courses. Also, once enrolled, students can purchase a 'Buckeye Bundle 2' of software for \$115 (price as of Sep, 2005, subject to change without notice). The 'Bundle' includes Microsoft Office and other Microsoft products (more detail found at http://oit.osu.edu/site_license/mslicense/).

* LCD monitors are lighter in weight and more space efficient than CRT type monitors.

** All campus dorm rooms are wired for internet access.

*** The OSU campus has many wireless network access points, with more added regularly. So a wireless network feature on a notebook could be put to good use.