

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION  
2009-2010  
Computer Purchasing Information**

### Buying a Laptop Computer

Golden Gate University has entered into pricing agreements with Dell Computers and Apple Computers for Golden Gate University student discounts. Discounts for Apple Computers are only available to matriculated students.

To purchase a personal computer through our purchase program, please visit the GGU Computer Purchase Program link:

[http://www.ggu.edu/student\\_services/advising\\_services/student\\_resources/computer\\_purchase\\_program](http://www.ggu.edu/student_services/advising_services/student_resources/computer_purchase_program)

You will be prompted to sign on with your GGU4YOU credential.

Please read the following tips for purchasing a laptop.

- **Operating System**

- We recommend getting a PC with Microsoft Vista. The IT Helpdesk provides limited support of the Mac operating system. If you want to use your computer to type your exams, you must have a laptop running Windows XP or Vista natively. On a Mac, Windows can be installed in a dual boot configuration using the BootCamp software. Our exam software will *not* run in a Windows emulated environment (through Parallel, VMware Fusion and the like) on a Mac. Due to limited staff resources, students are expected to install Windows on their Mac by themselves. When you consider purchasing a Mac, please take into account any technical issues that may arise when installing Windows. You should also factor in the additional cost of a fully licensed copy of Windows.
- GGU has licensed the ExamSoft software for students to use to type in their exam answers. This is the same software currently used by the California Bar Exam. For more information on the ExamSoft software, including the minimum hardware specifications, please go to [www.examsoft.com/ggulaw](http://www.examsoft.com/ggulaw).

- **Software**

- Anti-Virus Software: If you intend to connect to the GGU network, you must have up-to-date anti-virus software installed on your computer. The IT staff will not provide support to any student laptop without up-to-date virus protection.
- Firewall Software: If your antivirus package does not include a software firewall, we recommend that you install firewall software. Zone Labs offers free Windows firewall software that students can download at [www.zonelabs.com](http://www.zonelabs.com).
- Wordprocessing Software: You are not required to purchase any text-editing software. However, most students purchase the Microsoft Office suite. OpenOffice is an alternative word processor that is free of charge. OpenOffice is available at <http://www.openoffice.org>.

- **Form Factor**

You will be taking many courses that require heavy textbooks, so you may want to consider purchasing a computer that is both durable and light. We recommend getting a laptop under 5 pounds.

- **Warranty**

Laptop repairs without warranty can be expensive. You should consider a three-year service warranty. The Computer Helpdesk does not repair any student laptop hardware.

- **Hardware**

- **Processor:** We recommend getting the fastest processor you can afford. The new mini notebooks are very portable and have become popular in recent years. Be advised that these small notebooks tend to have slow processors to conserve power.
- **RAM Memory:** The minimum amount of RAM that you should get for your laptop is 1 Gigabyte (Gb). Microsoft Vista runs better with 2 Gb of RAM.
- **Network Access (wireless):** To connect to GGU's private wireless network, please make sure your computer supports the

WPA2 network authentication standard. For more details, please visit [www.ggu.edu/wireless](http://www.ggu.edu/wireless).

- **Monitor/Screen:** The size of the screen is a personal preference. As a guideline, the bigger the screen is, the heavier the laptop gets.
- **Battery:** You may consider getting an extended life battery. A long lasting battery may allow you to leave the charger at home. During exams, however, always bring your charger.