

If you are entering or anticipate entering a particular school or program within VCU, you must consult the computer requirements of that school or program first.

We strongly recommend that you do not use versions of Windows Home or Vista Home. These versions of Windows will not run statistical analysis software packages commonly used in VCU coursework.

If you intend to use a computer you already own or make a new purchase, the following recommendations will help assure that computer (PC or Mac) will be suitable for coursework:

1. The computer should be no more than **2** years old
2. It should have at least **2** GB RAM
3. It should have a Core **2** Duo (or equivalent) processor
4. It should have **2** ways of connecting to the Internet (an Ethernet port and WiFi capability)

Additional recommendations include an external hard drive for data back-up, a theft prevention system like Lo-Jack for laptops or a lockable security cable, be able to read dual layer DVD's, one or more flash drives, a warranty that covers accidental damage, and updated anti-virus software.

Note: VCU provides Anti-Virus software for download to enrolled students at no cost.
<http://www.ts.vcu.edu/security/virus.html>

Get your computer through VCU. VCU has negotiated with certain manufacturers for academic discounts on a number of selected computer systems. You are advised to examine these before making a purchase decision. Using VCU agreements ensures a system that will perform as needed and allows you to further support your school.

Q2QMobile@VCU <http://q2q.vcu.edu>

VCU's own unique student support program that combines the latest technology using **Lenovo**

ThinkPads,

pre-installed software like MS Office Pro, 1 day turn around on-campus warranty service and free loaners.

Apple Selected Macs preconfigured in consultation with the School of the Arts. <http://www.vcu.edu/sci>

Dell Chosen by a number of programs as the preferred provider of their computer technology. <http://www.vcu.edu/sci>

The most important computer requirement is not found in any computer you can buy.

How well a computer is taken care of physically has a direct impact on student success. Computers abused by gross negligence and irresponsible web browsing and illegal file sharing can expect to receive delayed and/or fee based support response.

See these links: http://www.ts.vcu.edu/policies/compuse_enforcement.html
<http://www.ts.vcu.edu/policies/computeruse.html>