

Shiley Academic Affairs Team (SAAT)

Calculator

The Math department prefers the TI-84 or TI-89 for upper division math courses. Most science and engineering courses prefer a scientific or graphing calculator. In some engineering courses, your calculator must be on the list provided by the CollegeBoard (see [this link](#)).

Computers

Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering

There is no specific type or brand of laptop required for CE, EE, or ME students. The Shiley School of Engineering does require some software for courses, but it is all available via a Virtual Machine (VMware).

In general, it is useful to have a laptop computer (Mac or PC) with the following peripherals: full-size keyboard, external mouse, a large external monitor, and a webcam.

In general, students who want to download programs and applications to their computer (instead of doing their work via the Virtual Machine) will probably want to choose a Windows-based laptop instead of a MacOS-based laptop.

Computer Science

There is no specific brand or type of laptop required; however, the Computer Science students need computers with the following specifications:

- Either a MacOS or Windows-based laptop is fine. You may want to consider installing Linux as a secondary operating system (dual boot).
- an SSD (not a HDD)
- a good CPU (at least on par with a low-end gaming laptop)
- enough RAM to comfortably run 2-3 resource intensive programs at once
- viable graphics card (specifically for students interested in Game Design, Machine Learning, or Computer Graphics electives)
- recommended peripherals
 - external full-size keyboard
 - external mouse
 - external hard drive (for storage and backups)
 - large external monitor

If you are unsure of your major, please try to pick the computer that will work for any of the majors you are interested in. Please reach out to the Program Counselor (Rebecca Neal, neal@up.edu) for questions.