UAB School of Public Health Laptop Requirement

The UAB School of Public Health prepares students for careers to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities and populations, locally, and globally. To support careers in public heath practice, research, government, international health, private industry, and a variety of community organizations, students must be prepared to use contemporary tools and technologies. The future for these students will be increasingly defined by digital technology, advances in health care technology, and the public health disciplines of biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health behavior, and health policy. Therefore, all students in the School of Public Health (SOPH) who are registered for a public health course are required to have a qualified laptop.

Required Minimum Specifications
To be a successful Public Health student, the School offers the following recommendations. These specifications are meant to provide a laptop recommendation that will deliver a suitable experience and capable resource for the student during their time in the SOPH program.
- Windows 7 64 bit or higher; or Mac OS X 10.10 or higher
- Intel Core i5 processor or higher (Core i7 recommended)
- 250GB minimum hard drive (500 GB or larger recommended)
- 8GB RAM minimum
- Wi-Fi – 802.11n/ac

General: Currently, some SOPH classes utilize statistical software called SAS. SAS is free to students through the University, but the version offered **does not** run on Mac OS, Android, Linux or Chrome. Windows laptops are recommended if SAS is going to be needed. For your convenience, SOPH also provides a computer lab that contains 23 workstations running Windows 7 and SOPH specific software. The lab is located in RPHB and available to students with an SOPH login.

For Apple users: Windows can be run using a virtual environment but can take additional tech support that is not provided by the SOPH. Some statistical programs have options for Mac OS systems (e.g. JMP, SPSS), check with your program to determine which packages you will need to install.

Other platforms: You cannot use a Chromebook or other basic tablet for statistical software unless you set up your own virtual environment.

IT Support
- All IT support is provided through UAB AskIT: https://www.uab.edu/it/home/
- UAB offers hands-on demos and computer sales with discounts for students through the TechConnect store in the Hill Student Center. They also provide additional IT support and services. For more information, visit http://www.uab.edu/it/home/techconnect.

Smart Shopping
While we understand that most students are on a limited budget, we recommend steering clear of the cheapest deals available. Although these deals appear to be excellent value on the surface, they usually fall short in many areas, including performance and longevity of the PC. We recommend considering an upper mid-tier to upper-tier PC if possible. The two most important details of a PC are the RAM (or memory) and the processor. Investing a little more in these details, as opposed to the bells and whistles offered at most retail outlets, will provide you with a PC that will perform well and last a good while longer than some of the cheaper PCs.