

JJCBE Student Computer Recommendations

Updated March 2016



If you are planning to bring a computer to campus, we recommend that you use a **Microsoft Windows** machine for your course work in the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship (JJCBE).



What if I have a Mac?

MSU provides support for both operating systems. However, at this time, the only computing platform that supports all of the software you will use at the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship (JJCBE) is the **Microsoft Windows** platform. Therefore, if you do not already have your own computer, we recommend that you use a Microsoft Windows machine.

A Windows computer is the best choice because it will support all of the software you will need in the business curriculum. In many cases the Mac will not support necessary software and the College does not require any software that runs exclusively on a Mac. If you do use a Mac, you may find yourself employing one of two options for completing assignments:

1. Going to the library or other computer lab.
2. Upgrading your Mac to support Windows. This can be accomplished by purchasing the Windows operating system, installing it on your Mac either via boot camp or virtual machine software like Parallels, then installing the necessary Windows based applications.

As a JJCBE student, am I required to have my own computer?

Students in the JJCBE are *not required* to provide their own computers. Montana State University (MSU) provides ample access to the latest hardware and software for students to use at no charge through student computer labs spread liberally throughout campus.

Where do I have access to computers?

While there are student computer labs in buildings nearby, Jabs Hall, the home of the JJCBE, does not have a dedicated student computer lab. If you are interested in maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of your study time, you may wish to own your own hardware and software.

Do I Need to Buy Software?

In general, the answer is no. As a student at MSU you are entitled to some free software including Office 365, McAfee anti-virus protection, and cloud storage through Box. If you have not yet purchased this software, please use the free version courtesy of MSU. To download this software, you must provide your MSU NetID (student log-in received after orientation) and password.

This software exists for both Windows and Mac but Office 365 for a Mac is not sufficiently powerful to complete all assignments.

Office 365 can be found here: www.montana.edu/office365/student/

Box can be found here: montana.app.box.com/login

MacAfee Anti-virus can be found here: www.montana.edu/software/mcafee/

What is the recommended hardware configuration?

Most modern computer hardware is sufficiently powerful to run all the software used in the JICBE curriculum. Still, a little advanced planning can be helpful in acquiring a computer that will last through all four years of college and even beyond college.

Component	Minimum Recommended Specification	Recommended Specification for Windows	Maximum Specification (Recommended for Mac)
CPU	Intel Core I3	Core I5	Intel Core I7
RAM	8 GB	8 GB	16 GB
Storage	500 GB	500 GB	1 TB

If you plan to purchase a Mac, we recommend the maximum specification so that two operating systems and two sets of programs will run effectively.

Three year warranties are recommended and you may wish to consider an additional “accidental damage” warranty.

Do I Need a Touch Screen?

Touch screens are a personal preference. A touch screen will add to the cost of the computer. Some people believe that a touch screen will increase their productivity while others think that touch simply “gets in the way”.

Do I Need a Printer?

It’s up to you. Printing services are readily available across campus, including in Jabs Hall and residence halls. You are given \$7.50 of free printing on your CatCard each semester which gives you 250 pages of free black & white printing each semester (more if you print double-sided); thereafter, each page costs \$0.03.

Questions?

MSU Information Technology Center: 406-994-1777; www.montana.edu/itcenter/

Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship Office of Student Services:
business@montana.edu, www.montana.edu/business/current-students/student-services/index.html

