

Jabs Student Computer Recommendations

Updated July 2022

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 (Jabs).

Students in the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship (Jabs) 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 throughout campus.

It is important to note that while there are student computer labs in buildings nearby, Jabs Hall, the home of the business college does not have a dedicated student computer lab. For efficiency and effectiveness of your study time, you may wish to own your own hardware and software. Below are the answers to frequently asked questions.

Windows or Mac?

MSU provides support for both operating systems however, the Windows operating system is the only one that runs all the software used in the business curriculum.

The Mac platform will support most but not all the software so when buying a new computer, we do recommend it be a Windows PC. If you own an Apple computer already there are many campus resources that you can use to access the incompatible software when needed to complete your coursework.

Do I Need to Buy Software?

In general, the answer is no. As an MSU student, you are entitled to some free software including Office 365, Adobe Creative Suite, and cloud storage through OneDrive. 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.

Office 365: www.montana.edu/office365/student/

OneDrive: <https://www.montana.edu/office365/onedrive/>

Adobe Creative Cloud: <http://www.montana.edu/uit/student/adobe/>

What is the recommended hardware configuration?

Most modern computer hardware is sufficiently powerful to run all the software used in the JJCBE 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 Specification	Normally Specification	High end Specifications
CPU	Intel Core I3/AMD Ryzen 3	Intel Core I5/AMD Ryzen 5	Intel Core I7/AMD Ryzen 7
RAM	8 GB	16 GB	16 GB or greater
Storage	256 GB	512 GB	1 TB

Additional notes

- When selecting a storage option choose an SSD or solid-state drive over an HDD or hard disk drive. The SSD will have less storage for the cost but the performance increase
- Additional 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 and up to you. There is no requirement to have a touch screen in any of our curriculum.

Do I Need a Printer?

Owning your own printer is optional. Printing services are readily available across campus, including in Jabs Hall and residence halls. Each student is given \$7.50 of free printing each semester (using your CatCard) which gives you 250 pages of free black & white printing (more if you print double-sided); thereafter, each page costs \$0.03.

Questions?

MSU University Information Technology (UIT): 406-994-1777; www.montana.edu/itcenter/

Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship Office of Student Services (OSS): business@montana.edu, <https://www.montana.edu/business/oss/>

