



Department of Communication Studies

Technology Requirements and Recommendations

Effective Fall 2012

Technology is and will continue to be an indispensable part of the educational experience. A student will need to have access to a range of technologies as he or she moves through his or her program at Eastern. In many cases, technology is used to complete class assignments but not required in class.

Surveys reveal that most communication majors at Eastern have a personal computer. Many receive a computer as a present for Christmas, graduation, or during their senior year of high school. To ensure that students have the technology they will need for their four years at Eastern, the department created technology requirements. Meeting these requirements ensures that students have the computer technology needed for the communication studies program.

Anyone in the workforce is expected to have the tools necessary for assigned work. Individuals in the trades (e.g. construction, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, or auto repair) have their own personal equipment. The same is true for those in many other occupations as people are frequently expected to have a passport, computer, and phone (among other items).

College is no exception to this belief. As a professional, appropriate equipment is expected. We are attempting to balance the costs of equipment and software between what the University provides and what you provide. We are striving to get as close to 50/50 as we can. The University will provide the unique and expensive technology while leaving to students the basic equipment.

What is the bottom line if I don't want to read the fine print? You should read the fine print!

Simple, you will be expected to have the following starting Fall 2012 if you are an incoming Freshmen or transfer student.

- A laptop computer that can run Adobe Creative Suite 5.5. (Macbook Pro 13" strongly recommended with iLife)
- A camera of some type that can take photos and video
- The ability to output your video signal to a projector (some computers require an adapter)
- We also recommend extra battery for camera, carrying cases, and backup systems.

If you are a mass communication student then you will need to have the following:

- A laptop computer that can run Adobe Creative Suite 5.5. (Macbook Pro 15" strongly recommended with iLife)
- Panasonic HDC-TM900 Camcorder
- 2 TB external powered harddrive (e.g. LaCie d2 Quadra v3 Hard Disk 2 TB)
- HDSC 32 mb flash memory card (recommend: RP-SDW32G (Class 10, up to 22MB/sec))
- The ability to output your video signal to a projector (some computers require an adapter)
- We also recommend extra battery for camcorder, carrying cases, and backup systems.

The department will provide a virtual desktop with the software you will need for class and links to other software or shareware that will be needed for classes and additional resources that are generally more expensive or would not be justified as an individual purchase (e.g. lenses for cameras used in class, tripods, lights)

---- The fine print starts here ----

Computer Hardware

Beginning Fall 2012, all incoming students are expected to have a laptop computer that will run Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 or the most current Creative Suite version utilized by the department. See <http://www.adobe.com/products/creativesuite/mastercollection/tech-specs.html> for the technical requirements. The department recommends that students have the technology that meets or exceeds the specifications that are outlined in Table One for mass communication majors (total cost of required items, \$2800) and Table Two for all other communication majors (total cost of required items \$1,315).

Students who do not have the required equipment will still have access through University Labs. However, the convenience of 24/7 accessibility will not be present. This meaning that individuals will need to have excellent time-management and planning skills in order to complete assignments as they can expect bottlenecks and delays during peak usage time dealing with other students who may need the same resources, limitations of equipment reservations, and open lab hours.

Computer Software

The department utilizes a number of software packages for both general classroom use and some specialty applications. The University provides students with access to the software outlined in Table Three through a virtual desktop arrangement paid for via student fees. Students will be responsible for maintaining and upgrading the operating system and installing applications provided by the University.

A virtual desktop separates the software from the physical machine. The software resides on a remote server while the user files are stored on the local computer. This model of computing provides several advantages over the traditional model of software and hardware located on the local machine. These advantages include:

- Standardized software delivery – students and instructors have access to the same software.
- Ease of updating software through central administration – this means students have the most recent versions of the software.
- Access control – software can be assigned by class.
- Access anywhere on any platform – for students this means that you can access your software on a desktop, laptop, tablet, and even potentially a smartphone as needed as long as you have a network connection.

- Distributed equipment will last longer – Since the processing work is done on the servers, the student computers have a longer shelf life.

All of the applications utilized by the department are certified to run on MacOS or the virtual desktop. All classroom and lab instruction utilize the MacOS or virtual platforms. Although the department attempts whenever possible to use cross-platform products, it is not always possible. The department does not provide support for non-recommended software or systems.

Tablets and Smartphones

Although not required, the department has made allowances for the use of tablets (e.g. iPad, Galaxy Tab) and smartphones (e.g. iOS, Android, Blackberry platforms) in class. *Their use will be up to individual instructors.* But, to facilitate use, the department maintains a list of applications that would assist a student in his or her career at Eastern and may be used in class. Table Four contains a list of applications for the tablet. Table five outlines the recommended hardware that can be purchased with a tablet. **Students might wish to consider the value of having a tablet or other device in addition to a laptop.**

In order for a tablet or smartphone to work, it must have at a minimum wireless capability. Devices that have access through the phone network will also work but remember that you would be using your monthly bandwidth normally limited as part of your data plan.

Camera

All communication majors are expected to have basic skills when it comes to the use of a still camera or basic video production. Technology goals specify that graduate will to produce videos and photographs for social media and general use that are of high quality.

For communication majors (except mass communication), the camera requirement is to have a device that can take photos and shoot high-definition video. Depending upon the skill level a student desires to accomplish, the type of camera will be different. The department recommends cameras in low, medium, and high ranges for a student to consider. All recommended models are consumer level but, they reflect differences in both digital still and video image quality, zoom capability, low-light functionality, sound quality, and picture depth (among other factors). In general the more you pay for a camera, the better the quality.

For mass communication students, the requirements are stricter as the competence level move up and students will be expected to demonstrate higher order production skills. As a result, students are expected to have Panasonic HDC-TM900 High Definition Camcorder.

Support and Repair

The University bookstore is a certified Apple Repair Center that will provide warranty work on all Apple computers and other Apple devices and, for a fee, provide out-of-warranty service.

The Department, in association with the Center for Academic Technology Services in the Gregg Technology Center (Triad), provides tutoring, trouble-shooting, diagnostics, and workshops

through dedicated graduate assistants. The Triad has video-conferencing, a sound booth, workstations, and studio space for student use. The department maintains several laptops available for checkout for class, labs, and open lab hours for student use on a first come, first served basis.

The department maintains the Hadwiger Communication Laboratory with graduate and undergraduate students to support student work. These students assist with tutoring, troubleshooting, diagnostics, and workshops for students in the communication program.

The Department maintains a website with links to shareware (software) that is recommended for student use. The site also contains recommendations and resources (available summer 2012) for students to provide hints, tips and other ideas for student media. The link to the site is lab.eiuspeech.org (available Summer 2012).

Additional Resources

The department maintains an inventory that extends the capabilities of the basic equipment students own. For example, light kits, microphones, camera lenses, tripods, high definition video players, cameras, dollies, jibs, field monitors, and steadicams are all available to support student projects. A complete list of supported equipment can be found on the department lab Website at lab.eiuspeech.org.

The department maintains a list of additional recommended equipment for students in table five. These items **are not required** but are provided as a means to make the college experience more enriching or convenient.

Financial Assistance

It is frequently possible to obtain financial assistance to purchase a computer. The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 allow for the purchase of a personal computer and software costs to be added to a student's educational expense budget that is used to determine financial aid eligibility. An increase does not necessarily result in additional eligibility for financial aid. Students who have borrowed their annual or aggregate loan limits may not have eligibility remaining. You can contact the EIU Office of Financial Aid for further information at 217.581.6405.

Table 1
 Department of Communication Studies
 Recommended and required equipment for Mass Communication Students

Equipment	
Required	15" Apple MacBook Pro w/ iLife Panasonic HDC-TM900 Camcorder 2 TB external Harddrive (e.g. LaCie d2 Quadra v3 Desktop External Hard Drive 301543U) HDSC 32 gb flash memory card (RP-SDW32G (Class 10, up to 22MB/sec)) Apple VGA connector
Recommended	Laptop upgrades Add 4 gb RAM Change harddrive 750 gb @ 7200 RPM Apple Protection extended warranty Bag/Backpack for camera Extended warranty for Camera Extra battery for camera (VW-VBN260 (2500 mAh)) Bag/Backpack for MacBook Pro Apple Remote

Table 2
 Department of Communication Studies
 Required and recommended equipment for Communication majors (except mass communication)

Equipment	
Required	13" Apple MacBook Pro w/ iLife Apple VGA connector
Recommended	Camera/device - photos and videos Apple Protection extended warranty Backup system (either drive or service) Bag/Backpack for MacBook Pro Backup Service or external hard drive Apple Remote

Table 3
 Department of Communication Studies
 Software provided by the University or accessible for free (shareware)

Software	Accessibility
Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)	Provided
Adobe Creative Suite ¹	Provided
Audacity	Shareware
TurningPoints Anywhere	Provided
TurningPoints Responseware	Provided
Grammarly	Provided
Simplemind	Provided
SPSS	Provided
Evernote	Shareware
MAMP	Shareware
Sigil	Shareware
Calibre	Shareware
Fetch	Provided
Celtx	Shareware
ClamXav	Shareware
Kindle	Shareware
Perian	Shareware
Jing	Shareware
VLC	Shareware
Handbrake	Shareware
Learning Management System	Provided
Zoomerang	Provided

Note: You will not be expected to purchase the software listed above, it will be provided to you by the University or made available for download.

¹ For all students this includes Photoshop, Indesign, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash, Acrobat Pro, Bridge, Device Central and for mass communication students Audition, Premiere, and After Effects.

Table 4
 Department of Communication Studies
 Application Recommendations for Tablets and Smartphones

Application	Operating System		
	iOS	Android	Blackberry
Learning Management System	X	X	X
TurningPoints Responseware	X	X	X
Citrix Receiver	X	X	X
EIU Mobile	X	X	X
Kindle	X	X	X
iBooks	X		
Evernote	X	X	X
Mindmap	X		
Shareplus	X	X	
Quickoffice Pro HD	X	X	
Dropbox	X	X	X
Celx Shots	X		
Celx Script	X		
Photo	X		
iMovie	X		
Garageband	X		
Prompterous	X		
CNN	X	X	X
USAToday	X	X	X
Fox News	X	X	X
CBS News	X	X	X
ABC News	X	X	X
The Weather Channel	X	X	X
Nightstand	X		
Mypad for Facebook & Twitter	X	X	X
Calculator for iPad	X		
iAnnotate	X		
Penultimate	X		
Total			

The list above is provided for informational purposes only. No particular vendor or software is endorsed.

Table 5
Department of Communication Studies
iPad and Peripheral recommendations

IPad, tablet, or smartphone
Apple Wireless Keyboard
Apple Magic Mouse
Apple Camera Connector (for iPad)
Apple iPad to VGA monitor adapter

Table 6
Department of Communication Studies
Camera recommendations

Non-mass communication majors²

Low level – smartphones

Apple iPhone

Samsung Galaxy Razr

Blackberry Storm/Pearl

Mid level – point and shoot

Nikon Coolpix S9100

Canon Powershot SX150 IS

Upper level - DSLR

Nikon D3100 (used in classes by faculty)

Canon iT3 Rebel

Three-year warranty for camera

Extra battery for camera

Camera Case

Mass communication majors

Panasonic HDC-TM900 High Definition Camcorder

Extended warranty for camera

Extra battery (VW-VBN260 (2500 mAh))

SDHC Flash Memory (RP-SDW32G Class 10, up to 22 MB/sec)

Camera Case

² Students are required to have a device that can take photos and videos. A number of classes will have assignments that will require students to use these devices.