

Nebraska Library Commission 21st Century Librarian Scholarship

Laptop Computer Selection Recommendations

The Nebraska Library Commission 21st Century Librarian Scholarship team will approve one stipend for one new laptop or tablet computer up to the amount of \$700.00. Laptop computer stipend payments may not be used for the purchase of netbooks.

Recommended (Minimum) Configurations for New Laptops:

	Windows PC*	Macintosh*
Operating System	Windows 7 (64-bit preferred)	Mac OS X v10.6 (Snow Leopard)
Processor	2.4 GHz Core 2 Duo	2.4 Ghz Core 2 Duo
RAM	4.0 GB	2.0 GB
Hard Drive Size	300 GB	250 GB
Video RAM	128MB	256MB
Screen Size	13-inch	13-inch
Optical Drive	DVD +/- RW/R CD-RW combo	DVD +/- RW/R CD-RW combo
Ethernet Port	10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet	10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet
Internal Wireless Card	802.11g	802.11g
Main Battery	6+ hrs. battery life	6+ hrs. battery life
Other	2 USB ports, Media card reader, Integrated microphone & speakers, Integrated webcam, Headphone & microphone jacks	
Productivity Software	Microsoft Office (~\$150 student price); OpenOffice or LibreOffice (free)	Office for Mac or iWork

*The Nebraska Library Commission does not officially endorse any particular computer brand or manufacturer.

Additional Information

Many college and university computer stores or bookstores offer computers at deeply discounted prices to their students. Some computer companies also offer student discounts. Take advantage of student discounts on the purchase of computers, software, and related educational products.

Productivity software is often available through your college or university at academic price. It might be less expensive for you to configure a laptop without the software, then purchase the software from your college or university or an online discount store and install it yourself.

When you buy directly from a manufacturer, they will custom-build your laptop with the hardware and software you want. If you mail-order a laptop, find out how long it will take to build and ship it. Some companies promise next-day delivery. If you don't check, it can take anywhere from 4-6 weeks. Look for a 30-day money-back guarantee and multi-year warranty. Find out where you can get the laptop fixed if something should go wrong. For instance, do you need to mail it back to the manufacturer or can it be serviced locally?

Contact Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, michael.sauers@nebraska.gov, with questions regarding laptop computer selection.