

College of Engineering and Applied Science
Minimum Laptop Specifications for 2026-2027

The following laptop configurations were developed by Digital Technology Solutions CEAS IT and CEAS Faculty for CEAS Students. These are **recommended minimum configurations**.

Students with laptops that do not meet these minimum requirements will not be prohibited from enrolling in courses, but their ability to participate in classroom activities and to complete assignments may be severely hindered. Workstation class video cards are strongly recommended due to engineering software being designed to support or require workstation video card acceleration. Support for students with laptops that do not meet these requirements will not be provided.

College of Engineering and Applied Science Minimum Laptop Specifications as of January 14, 2026		
	CEAS Majors - Academics Minimum Specifications	Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management (CAECM)
Processor	Intel Core Ultra 7 Series 2 or higher	Intel Core Ultra 7 Series 2 or higher AMD Ryzen 9 AI or higher
Graphics	NVIDIA RTX 1000 or higher	NVIDIA RTX 2000 or higher
Memory	32 GB or higher	
Storage	1 TB SSD Drive	
Audio/Video	Audio, Webcam and Microphone (required)	
Network	Gigabit Ethernet (internal or external recommended)	
Wireless	Wireless 802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6) or higher	
Ports	USB 3.1 and Gen 2 (Type-C) ports or higher HDMI port and cable for external monitor/projector	
Mouse	Mouse is optional, but recommended for CAD type applications	
Operating System	Windows 11 Professional (Windows 11 Home is not compatible with numerous Engineering Apps)	
Warranty	Students are expected to use their laptops over the course of several years. Due to the nature of how laptops are used, an extended warranty and accidental warranty should be considered.	
Accessories	Students may also want to consider a 1TB or larger USB external hard drive for backing up their computer system.	

Addendum:

1. CEAS IT does not support Mac OS for student laptop computing. Apple has moved to its own ARM based processors and will not support Windows in Boot Camp mode. **Since most of our engineering applications do not run on Mac OS, Macs should not be purchased for any of the engineering programs.**
2. CEAS IT does not support Windows ARM-based laptops. Most Engineering Applications are not optimized for ARM Based Processors. **Even though Windows for ARM has an x64 emulator, it is not recommended for Engineering Applications due to significantly lower performance and/or compatibility issues.**
3. In response to the recent shortage in RAM (memory) components, the cost and availability of computers (including laptops) have been impacted. Consequently, laptop prices will increase as manufacturers adjust their supply and production. We acknowledge that this will affect students. To mitigate the impact, we recommend monitoring sales (particularly during holidays), and contacting vendors to see if educational pricing is available to assist in managing costs.