LIM College - Technology / Computing Requirements & Buying Guide 2023-2024

A proper technology / computing setup is required and integral to achieving academic success at LIM College. All courses infuse technology to support both teaching and learning, so it is important to have a reliable, functional at home / personal computing setup when taking online and/or on-ground classes.

What technologies do students need to succeed at LIM?

One will need access to

1. A reliable computer (no older than five-six years).
2. Reliable broadband internet and a stable connection.

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:

You'll find a breakdown of the following in the Tables that follow:

1. basic computing requirements
2. a pricing guide for a new computer.
   - **Please note:** all prices are set by vendors / providers, thus subject to change.
3. internet requirements and hotspot options
4. a list of course specific software and cost for @ home / personal use
5. a list of free software provided to all LIM College students.

Hardware Components:	Microsoft - Windows (PC)	Apple - OS (Mac)	Windows (PC) Range of Prices:	Apple - (Mac) Range of Prices:
1. Computer Operating System:	Windows 11 Home	MacOS 13.0 (Ventura) or newer	**Dell:** https://www.dell.com/	**Apple:** https://www.apple.com/mac/
2. Processor (CPU):	Minimum: Intel Core i7 / AMD A7 or better		Dell XPS 13 - $799 Dell XPS 15 - $1199	MacBook Air – $999 MacBook Pro 14" - $1599
3. Memory (RAM):	Minimum: **8 GB** Recommended: **16 GB** if using graphic applications			
4. Hard Drive:	Minimum: **256 GB** Recommended: **512 GB** or more *(solid state drive recommended)*		**HP:** https://store.hp.com/	
5. Video Card:	**GPU VRAM:** Nvidia GeForce 400 series + up AMD Radeon 5000 series + up		HP Laptop 15 - $799 HP Envy x360 - $1099	
6. Headset: (Required if laptop or desktop computer does not have an existing microphone "speak" and / or speakers "listen")	**Recommended:** Logitech H390 Headset from Amazon		**$25.00**	
7. Webcam: (Required if laptop or desktop computer does not have an existing microphone "speak" and / or speakers "listen")	**Recommended:** Logitech HD Pro Webcam C920 • From Amazon – search for "HD webcam" • From Connections website		**$69.00**	

Software:	How to acquire the software:		Range of Prices:
Free Microsoft <u>Office</u> 365: "Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc" (Five "5" <mark>Free</mark> Downloads to LIM Students)	On the left-hand side of myLIM, click on Top/Main Applications to access Office 365 (online). Follow these instructions to install Office 365 onto your personal computer		**<u>Free</u>**
Browsers:	Use the most current version of your preferred browser		**<u>Free</u>**
Antivirus Software:	Strongly Recommended – Windows Defender is sufficient	Strongly Recommended	Varies and based on vendor
Adobe Acrobat (Free):	Install Adobe Acrobat		**<u>Free</u>**

Estimated price range:

~$1,200 - $1,500*

(*This is only an estimate and does not include taxes, insurance plans and other fees)

(**See below for a list of course specific software and applicable out of pocket cost)

Specific Software:	Location / How to acquire the software:	Prices:
Adobe Creative Cloud: "Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere Pro, After Effects, etc"	Creative Cloud is a collection of desktop and mobile apps and services for photography, graphic design, video editing, web development and more. 1. Launch *On the Hub*, LIM's Technology webstore. 2. Sign in with your LIM Credentials 3. Click on the Adobe Tab 4. Follow prompts to buy (for free) and install.	**Free**
Sketchup:	SketchUp is a 3D modeling computer program for a wide range of drawing applications such as architectural, interior design, landscape architecture, civil and mechanical engineering, film and video game design. SketchUp is free if you are signed up for specific Visual Studies courses. Otherwise, you can purchase from Creative Engine Website	**Free for some Visual Studies course** **$55.00**
IBM SPSS:	IBM® SPSS® Statistics is a leading statistical software offering used to solve business and research problems by means of ad hoc analysis, hypothesis testing, geospatial analysis, and predictive analytics. 1. Launch *On the Hub*, LIM's Technology webstore. 2. Sign in with your LIM Credentials 3. Click on the IBS SPSS Tab 4. Follow prompts to buy (for free) and install.	**Free**

Internet Connectivity - Hotspot Option:	Cost:
An internet connection speed of **6Mbps minimum** with a **recommendation of 30Mbps or greater** is required. For those that do not have access to internet at home, you may contact your mobile services provider (Verizon, T-Mobile, etc) and purchase a mobile hotspot plan.	**$10-15 / month** *This range is carrier specific and based on unlimited data plans.* **For non-unlimited plans, *data rates may apply*, thus confirm all costs with your mobile provider)*

A **hotspot** turns your mobile cell phone into a tethered Wi-Fi data connection, allowing one to connect a laptop or tablet. **Please note**: access and speed may vary depending on one's geographical location, proximity to cell phone tower and/or the structural makeup of one's home.	

Internet Connectivity - @ Home Broadband Option: (Sample of five providers in NY Metro Area)	Estimated Cost and Fees: (Prices and terms are subject to change and do not include taxes, fees, and surcharges)
Verizon: (no contract)	▶ 200Mbps: $39.99/month + router charge: $15/month ▶ Gigabit 1000Mbs: $79.99/month + router charge: $15/month
Optimum: (w/12-month contract)	▶ 300Mbps: $39.99/month + router charge: $10/month ▶ Gigabit 1000Mbs: $69.99/month + router charge - $10/month
AT&T: (w/12-month contract)	▶ 100Mbps: $49.99/month + router charge: $10/month ▶ Gigabit 1000Mbs: $49.99/month + router charge - $10/month
Spectrum: (w/12-month contract)	▶ 940Mbps: $49.99/month + router charge: $0.00/month
CenturyLink: (no contract)	▶ 100Mbps: $49.99/month + router charge: $15/month ▶ Gigabit 1000Mbs: $65.99/month + router charge - $15/month

Other recommendations and items to consider:

1. Before purchasing a computer, check the computer requirements for your field of study.
2. Web applications occasionally do not work well with all browsers. Individuals are encouraged to install at least one alternative browser (either Chrome or Firefox) in addition to the default browsers provided with the operating system.
3. Netbooks and tablet computing devices do not have the computing power of a normal laptop or desktop computer, for this reason they are not recommended for use as a primary computer at LIM.
4. Use a backup program like Windows Backup or Mac OS Time Machine with an external hard drive to ensure file recovery in the event of a system malfunction.
5. When purchasing a computer, make sure it includes copies of all media disks (operating system, drivers, and applications) and bring copies of these disks with you to campus (including product keys) in case a reformat or reinstall becomes necessary. Some computers have a restore partition built into the computer that contains this software as well.
6. Printers are usually sold separately. Inkjet and laser printers provide high-quality printing. Before you buy, compare prices, features, and cartridge-replacement costs.