

## Laptop Requirements and Recommendations for MD Program Class of 2028 and PA Program Class of 2026

All incoming medical and physician assistant students must have a laptop that meets these minimum system requirements. These specifications are determined by the prerequisites of our curricular applications, institutional cybersecurity policies, and the challenges encountered by current students using older equipment.

### PC

- PC model released in 2018 or later (2021 or later recommended)
- Windows 10 (64-bit) or Windows 11, version 22H2 or higher (Windows 11 Pro or Education Edition recommended)
- Alternate versions of Windows 10 and Windows 11, such as Windows RT and Windows 10 and 11 S, are not supported.
- 8 GB of RAM (16 GB recommended)
- 128 GB hard drive (256 GB recommended)
- Minimum of 20GB of available storage, either on internal or external drives.
- 13-inch screen with 1280 X 800 resolution or higher
- Wi-Fi enabled
- Integrated or external webcam and microphone
- Decent battery life (3 hours or more recommended)
- Extended warranty (recommended)

### MAC

- Mac model released in 2018 (2021 or later recommended)
- macOS 13 Ventura or higher
- Only genuine versions of macOS are supported
- 8 GB of RAM (16 GB recommended)
- 128 GB hard drive (256 GB recommended)
- Minimum of 20GB of available storage, either on internal or external drives.
- 13-inch screen with 1280 X 800 resolution or higher
- Wi-Fi enabled
- Integrated or external webcam and microphone
- Decent battery life (3 hours or more recommended)
- AppleCare Protection Plan (recommended)

**Attention Medical Students:** Please be aware that ASUS laptops equipped with touchscreen monitors or the [ScreenPad™](#) feature are not compatible with the software used for the National Board Medical Examinations (NBME). If you own a laptop with these features, we advise against purchasing a new laptop solely to resolve this issue. The MD Program provides loaner laptops for such situations.

However, if you are considering a new laptop purchase, kindly refrain from selecting ASUS models with touchscreen monitors or the ScreenPad™ feature. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## Tablet Recommendations

If you intend to use a tablet as a secondary device for curricular activities, such as electronic assessments, please ensure it meets the following minimum system requirements:

### iPad

- iPad 5+, iPad Air 3+, iPad Mini 4+, iPad Pro.
- iPadOS 15 or higher.
- iPad must not be Jailbroken

### Surface Pro

- Surface Pro 6 or newer
- Windows 10 (64-bit) or Windows 11, version 22H2 or higher (Windows 11 Pro or Education Edition recommended)
- Windows 10 S (S Mode) is not supported. Please [read](#) this article for more information.

## High-speed Internet Access

We strongly recommend a high-speed home internet connection with a minimum speed of 15 Mbps. You can test your internet speed at [fast.com](https://fast.com). Please ensure your home Wi-Fi network is secured with a password.

## Upcoming Policy on Bringing Your Own Device (BYOD)

UNM Health and Health Sciences requires personal computer devices to be enrolled in the HSC Mobile Device Management (MDM) system for accessing institutional resources such as the on-campus secure Wi-Fi network and HSC Microsoft 365 services. This requirement will not apply to student personal devices until at least late Fall 2024.

Further details about the new Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy will be provided as they become available. Instructions and technical support will be available to assist you through the enrollment process.

Stay tuned for these upcoming requirements for student personal devices later this year:

### PC

- Laptops must have a password for unlocking that is at least 6 characters long.
- Laptops must utilize full-disk encryption software, such as Microsoft BitLocker, which is included with Windows Pro and Education Editions. If your laptop runs Windows Home Edition, you will need to upgrade or use alternative encryption software.
- Antivirus and antispyware software must be installed, enabled, and kept up to date on the device. Microsoft Defender,

### MAC

- The laptop must be password-protected for unlocking.
- The laptop must be encrypted using FileVault, Apple's full-disk encryption software.

included with all versions of Windows, fulfills this requirement.

### **iPhone/iPad**

- The device must have a password for unlocking that is at least 6 characters long and not considered a simple password (e.g., 123456).
- A password must be set to unlock the device after it has been locked or idle for 5 minutes or more.

### **Android**

- Android OS version 11 or higher.
- The device must have a password for unlocking that is at least 6 characters long and not considered a low complexity password (e.g., 123456).
- A password must be set to unlock the device after it has been locked or idle for 5 minutes or more.
- Data storage on the device must be encrypted.

### **Need Help? Contact Us!**

To view instructions on how to check your laptop's specifications, please click here: [PC](#) | [MAC](#)

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to Academic Multimedia Services at [HSC-AMS@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-AMS@salud.unm.edu) or give us a call at 505-272-0666. We're here to help!