

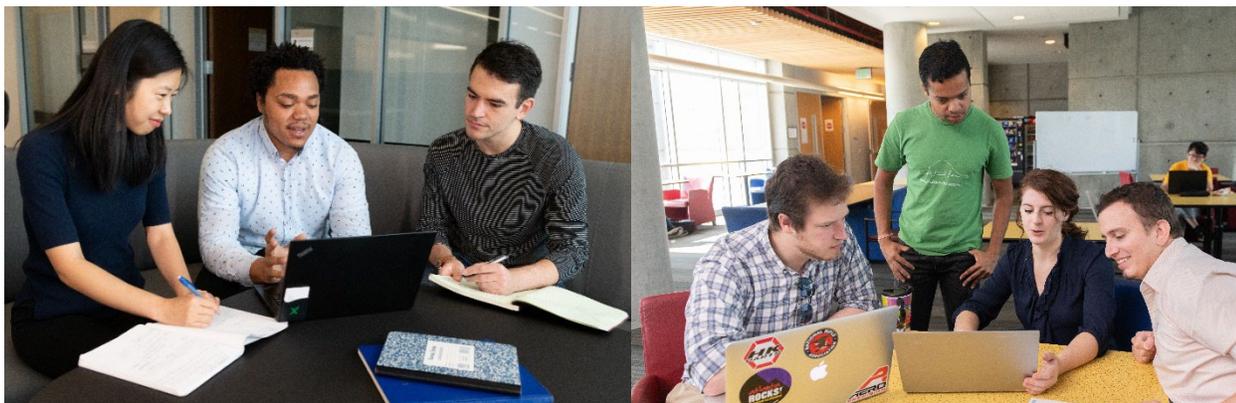
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COMPUTER OWNERSHIP GUIDE

Georgia Institute of Technology

2022/2023 Information

<http://www.sco.gatech.edu>

Welcome to the Georgia Institute of Technology! Georgia Tech requires all undergraduate students, including transfer students, to own a laptop computer that can be used in your residence and carried to class. This document describes minimum hardware and software requirements, support and security guidelines, and computer ownership financial aid information.



PURCHASING HARDWARE

Whether you choose to purchase a new computer or you already own a laptop, make sure it satisfies as many of the components listed in the “Hardware Requirements” section below as possible. To access detailed information on purchasing a laptop computer, see <http://techstuff.gatech.edu>.

Life Cycle

Ideally, a new laptop/notebook that meets the specifications in this document will continue to serve your needs for the next four years. If you are entering with a used notebook, you may need to upgrade it before you graduate, depending upon its specifications and your needs. The Technology Store @ Georgia Tech (located inside Barnes & Noble) has prepared several packages that meet or exceed the Georgia Tech hardware requirements. Please feel free to check with the Technology Store, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) Enterprise Service

Desk, or with a Wreck Techs (Residential Housing IT Support) staff member if you have specific purchasing questions (contact information is provided at the end of this document).

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Hardware needs to meet **at least the minimum standards** summarized in the table below. Students should also check with their school or department to determine if there are additional requirements for their course of study.

Minimum Hardware Requirements

Processor	64-bit multi-core processor (quad-core or higher recommended)
Memory	16GB (higher recommended)
Primary Storage	256GB SSD (higher recommended)
Backup	External hard drive or cloud service (GT provides no-cost cloud services)
Networking	Dual-Band (2.4GHz/5GHz) Wireless 802.11ac
I/O devices	Physical keyboard and mouse/trackpad
Accessories	(Required) Webcam and microphone (built-in or external). (Highly Recommended) Headset with a microphone for clear communication while on video conference sessions

Additional Recommendations

Recovery option	Highly recommended
Extended Warranty	Highly recommended
Optional Accessories	USB-C dongles, VGA dongles, Ethernet cable, laptop anti-theft cable lock, webcam, HDMI dongle, headset, microphone, and headphones

The computer should be fast enough and have enough memory and disk space to provide satisfactory performance over a usable life of at least three to four years. Individual schools, such as [Architecture](#), and online courses may have additional requirements (see below).

The hardware requirements and recommendations are discussed in greater detail below:

Form Factor	Laptop* with a minimum of 4 hours of battery life is required.
Processor	64 bit Multi-core processor or better.**
Memory	16GB or more. For best performance, we recommend that you configure/install as much memory as affordable at the time of purchase.
Operating Systems	Windows or macOS or Linux
Primary Storage	Hard drive/solid state drive with a minimum of 256GB of storage capacity. Note: It is advisable that you get as large a drive as affordable. Check with your school/department to determine if greater storage capacity is needed.
Backup	For local backup, an external hard drive with at least double the size of the internal hard drive or a subscription to a cloud based backup solution like OneDrive for Business is highly recommended. (See FAQ Q23 for additional information). Georgia Tech provides several options for cloud-based backups using OneDrive, Dropbox, and Box (see here)
Networking	Dual-Band (2.4 GHz/5 GHz) Wireless 802.11ac capable
Recovery Options	It is highly recommended that all computers include a recovery partition or recovery utility that allows quick restoration of the factory image, should a re-installation be necessary. If the system does not have a recovery partition, then students should have their software media with them in the event a re-installation is necessary. <i>If you have questions, check at the point of purchase or at the Enterprise Service Desk.</i>
Accessories	Physical keyboard and mouse/trackpad.

NOTE: most tablets do not meet the minimum hardware requirements. However, if it meets all the hardware requirements and can run full desktop operating systems, a tablet is acceptable.

** The use of Virtual Lab (VLab) does not diminish these requirements. Your system will still need to independently support the required software. Virtual Lab (VLab) provides GT students a way to access 'virtual machines' on campus and use software such as MATLAB and AutoCAD from any computer with Internet access. See <http://mycloud.gatech.edu/> for the Citrix Access Gateway to VLab.

Warranty:

Extended warranties (three years, in general) are highly recommended. These warranties normally cover hardware problems as well as system troubleshooting via phone or email (additional accidental damage coverage should be considered, if available).

Third Party Resources:

The Technology Store offers in-store purchasing in addition to an online order site. Visit techstuff.gatech.edu for exclusive discount pricing for the Georgia Tech community on hardware, software and accessories. All students who have been accepted to Georgia Tech should already be assigned a GT account, which is required for access to this special pricing. To access all features of the techstuff.gatech.edu site before your FASET orientation session, go to www.passport.gatech.edu to activate your GT account and set up your password.

Optional Accessories:

- Dongles for connecting to an external display or projection device
- All classrooms on campus utilize HDMI as the standard connectivity option for projection systems. The Institute does not provide video adapters for notebooks, tablets or other mobile devices. ([information on classroom support resources](#))
- USB flash drive
- CAT-5e or CAT-6 Ethernet cable (25 ft or longer recommended) and USB-to-Ethernet adapter
- Laptop anti-theft cable lock
- A laptop with a webcam and microphone, or an external webcam, as well as a USB microphone and headphones (or headset), are strongly recommended for online courses

Network Connections

Georgia Tech currently provides wireless access in nearly every building on campus, including offices, labs, classrooms, student residence halls, and most outdoor spaces. In addition, all rooms in campus residence halls offer Gigabit-speed wired internet access. Each room has as many wired connections as students. Housing fees cover access; there is no additional charge. To access the network using a wired connection, students living in campus residence halls will need a CAT-5e or CAT-6 Ethernet cable and Ethernet port or USB-to-Ethernet adapter for their computer. Further information and connection instructions can be found at lawn.gatech.edu.

Printing**Clough Commons/Library/Housing:**

Although owning a printer is not required, many students purchase a printer for their own convenience. The printer should be connected using a USB or wired network connection (wireless printing is not supported). High speed laser printing for students is also available

throughout the campus, including the Library, many schools, colleges, and campus housing areas. This service is managed by Printing and Copying Services and the Office of Information Technology via the Pharos printing system utilizing BuzzCard funds, and a print allocation provided to students on a semesterly basis. For more information about this service, please visit: <http://b.gatech.edu/2qbe1QN>.

CentralPS:

The Central Printing Service (Central PS) is another printing option for students who need to print large volumes and/or who do not need the job immediately. This is a PCS service with print jobs delivered to bins in the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons Room 215 (behind Kaldi's Coffee) approximately three times a day Monday - Friday. Students are currently not charged for Central PS printing, but are limited to 1200 pages per semester. For more information about this service, please visit: <https://print.gatech.edu>.

Large Format Printing:

Large format printing (poster printing) is available at different locations on campus, including the Library's Print Studio located on the 3rd floor of Price Gilbert, part of the Media Scholarship Commons. Print jobs are priced by the square foot and plotters are capable of printing in 24-inch, 36-inch and 42-inch widths of any length. For more information about this service, please visit: <https://library.gatech.edu/media-scholarship-commons>.

STANDARD SOFTWARE

Georgia Tech supports a standard software suite for both Windows and macOS systems. Standard software minimizes software incompatibilities between students and faculty, helps meet educational goals, improves the effectiveness and timeliness of software support, and helps minimize support costs. The Enterprise Service Desk and Wreck Techs will actively support the standard software. The Technology Store at Barnes & Noble does not provide software support. Most standard software will additionally be available for student use in the general-purpose [computing clusters](#) maintained by OIT.

Students should install software packages at the time they are needed for use in their courses; many packages are available for free at software.oit.gatech.edu, or through vendors offering academic discounts, such as Kivuto's OnTheHub (onthehub.com) and Kivuto. Be aware that downloading and installing additional software can substantially affect the performance of your computer. Removal of software from expired trials is encouraged to maximize the operating speed of your system.

Since the Enterprise Service Desk and Wreck Techs cannot support all software, if students choose to use any non-standard software, they may be solely responsible for maintaining it.

Students should have available a record of the license keys for all their purchased software so that these may be re-installed in the event of a serious problem or system reinstall.

The standard software suite for Windows and macOS is as follows:

Windows Systems

Operating System	<p>Microsoft Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit)</p> <p>NOTE: Included with new computer purchase.</p>
Email	<p>Office 365 Exchange (can be used with most web browsers and email clients)</p> <p>NOTE: Accessible online at mail.gatech.edu, no purchase or installation required. Student's GT Email will be created about one month before the semester starts. See additional instructions on configuring mail clients.</p>
Data Backup	<p>Windows Backup</p> <p>NOTE: Included as part of Windows 10 and newer versions. Requires external hard drive or OneDrive cloud storage. OneDrive can be accessed through office365.gatech.edu.</p> <p>Optional: Dropbox or Box are alternative options (see this link for more information)</p> <p>Visit this document for good advice on Data Backup.</p>
Security	<p>Georgia Tech expects each machine to have security software installed, whether it's a part of the Operating System or a 3rd party software. For more information about this requirement, please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Georgia Tech Acceptable Use Policy • Familiarize yourself with the Georgia Tech Cyber Security website located at: security.gatech.edu. • Additional information can be found in Computer Security or by emailing ask@security.gatech.edu.
Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software:	<p>Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus or LibreOffice</p> <p>Georgia Tech students can download Office 365 ProPlus for free by following these instructions.</p> <p>LibreOffice is a free Open Source office suite alternative.</p>
Online Storage	<p>As part of the Office 365 Pro Plus package, students will have access to OneDrive for Business for file syncing and storage. (See FAQ Q23 for additional information.)</p>

macOS Systems

Operating System	<p>Apple macOS Big Sur (11) or Monterey (12)</p> <p>NOTE: Included with new computer purchase.</p>
Email	<p>Office 365 Exchange (can be used with most web browsers and email clients)</p> <p>NOTE: Accessible online at mail.gatech.edu, no purchase or installation required. Student's GT Email will be created about one month before the semester starts.</p>
Data Backup	<p>Apple Time Machine</p> <p>NOTE: Included with macOS. Requires external hard drive.</p> <p>Optional: OneDrive, Dropbox, or Box cloud storage are other options. For more information, see this document.</p>
Security	<p>Georgia Tech expects each machine to have security software installed, whether it's a part of the Operating System or a 3rd party software. For more information about this requirement, please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Georgia Tech Acceptable Use Policy • Familiarize yourself with the Georgia Tech Cyber Security website located at: security.gatech.edu. • Additional information can be found in Computer Security or by emailing ask@security.gatech.edu.
Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation Software	<p>Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus, LibreOffice, or iWork Suite (free download for Macs)</p> <p>Georgia Tech students can download Office 365 ProPlus for free by following these instructions.</p> <p>LibreOffice is a free Open Source office suite alternative.</p>
Windows Compatibility	<p>Windows compatibility software is not required campus-wide. However, some classes may require the use of specific, Windows-only applications. Students in these classes choosing to use macOS systems can either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install virtualization software (Parallels Desktop (paid) or VMware Fusion (free)) and a fully licensed copy of Microsoft Windows 8.1 (or newer) in order to run Windows applications. Keep in mind that virtual machines take away from your total available RAM; this is why we recommend 16GB. 2. Partition their hard drive and use Apple's Boot Camp to run either Windows or macOS. This requires a fully licensed copy of Microsoft Windows. Keep in mind that partitioning a hard drive

	will take away available disk space from macOS. We recommend a Windows partition of at least 64GB.
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Linux Operating Systems

OIT recommends that students who need to use Linux for class assignments carefully consider which distribution of Linux they will install. Students should confirm with School IT to determine the most supportable version to prevent support issues during the semester. For the best experience possible, OIT recommends students stay with Ubuntu-based Linux distributions such as one of the following:

- Ubuntu
- Linux Mint

These distributions offer the most familiar user interface and are relatively easy to interact with.

Please know that the Enterprise Service Desk provides “limited/best effort” support for Linux distributions at this time. Some support documents have been created to support Linux users and are available at services.gatech.edu or for wireless configuration at lawn.gatech.edu.

The standard software suite indicates software versions known at the time of this printing. At the time of purchase, students should acquire the latest versions for the computer they will be using. If you purchase software from the Technology Store, then you will always receive the current version. The Technology Store can be accessed online (techstuff.gatech.edu) and offers exclusive discount pricing for the Georgia Tech community on software, hardware, and accessories. Additional purchasing options include Kivuto's E-academy (<http://gatech.e-academy.com>) and On-the-hub (onthehub.com) – an online vendor offering academic discounts for essential and curriculum-based software – or other commercial sources.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Through an appeals process, computer ownership costs and expenses may be added to the Institute's Cost of Attendance (Student Budget; <http://finaid.gatech.edu/cost-adjustments>) for **entering freshmen and undergraduate transfer students**. Applicants who apply for student financial aid through the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) may request to have a one-time adjustment up to a maximum of \$1,100 added to their Cost of Attendance for purposes of determining his or her eligibility for student financial assistance. A receipt showing computer purchase costs will be required at the start of the first term. Procedures on how to initiate this request can be found at www.finaid.gatech.edu/costs. Contact a financial aid advisor, listed at www.finaid.gatech.edu/contacts, with any questions.

COMPUTER SUPPORT

Georgia Tech provides the following support facilities and services:

- Printing (limited)
- Internet access
- Email
- Centralized network storage (limited) and basic web-hosting
- Computer labs for short-term access to computers running the standard software
- Departmental clusters or labs with major-specific software (e.g. mathematical manipulation and calculation, CAD, compilers, and databases)
- Special classrooms and labs for computer-enhanced presentations

Enterprise Service Desk

Services provided by the OIT-Enterprise Service Desk include but are not limited to: GTAccount, email and Wireless Network support. The OIT-Enterprise Service Desk is also available to students to offer consultation about computer hardware configurations. The Enterprise Service Desk is in Room 215 of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons and is available for walk-in support and at 404-385-5555. See <https://services.gatech.edu> for a complete listing of services and hours of operation.

Wreck Techs

Wreck Techs provides full support to residents of the on-campus residence halls. Wreck Techs utilizes student technicians as Residential Technology Advisors (RTAs) who are available to provide telephone, online chat, in-office, and on-site technical support to residents. RTAs are available to assist students with such tasks as connecting to the GT wired or wireless network, installing anti-virus software, and assisting with connecting gaming/personal entertainment devices to the Georgia Tech network.

Wreck Techs is the only service on campus that provides After Hours Support (see services.gatech.edu for hours of operation and locations) and in-room repairs. All residence hall wireless access points and wired network connections are maintained, supported, and repaired by Wreck Techs.

Academic Technology Resources for Students

[This website](#) provides information about academic technology resources that are available to students, as well as how students can get assistance when they need support on using these resources.

Third Party Support

All computer repair and upgrade services for Apple, Dell, Lenovo, and HP are referred to outside Support Vendor Repair. Please note that there is no affiliation whatsoever to OIT with these service locations and users can choose to seek computer repair from anywhere else not

referred. Hardware repairs on all brands of computers, regardless of where they were purchased or current warranty status, can be facilitated at referred locations.

COMPUTER SECURITY

All members of the Georgia Tech community play a role in protecting the Institute's information assets and systems. To help facilitate this effort, we ask that you do the following:

- Read the [Georgia Tech Acceptable Use Policy](#)
- Review [Endpoint Computing Best Practices](#)
- Create strong passwords and do not share them with anyone for any reason. A strong password has at least eleven characters and uses a combination of numbers, upper and lower case letters, and special symbols (!#\$%^&*+). Do not use the same password for multiple purposes or websites, your first and last names, or the @ symbol in your password. Password management tools (e.g. [LastPass](#)) are highly recommended, and can help with the development of strong passwords.
- Register your devices with the [GT Police](#)
- GT Police also offers free laptop engraving of your Georgia Tech ID number on your laptop. Email crimetips@police.gatech.edu to request an appointment.
- Keep software applications, operating systems, and security patches current by visiting vendor websites regularly. Microsoft Windows and Apple Macintosh users can set their computers to download Operating System patches automatically:
 - **Windows Users:** Enable Windows Update:
 - Start -> Windows Settings -> Update Security -> Windows Update
 - **Mac Users:** Enable Software Update:
 - System Preferences -> Software Update -> Check for updates (weekly)
- Perform regular backups and store them in a secure location.
- Verify that websites are secure prior to entering personal information by looking to see that your web browser is pointed to an https rather than an http address.
- Log off or lock your session when away from your computer.
- Prevent theft of your computer: use a cable lock to secure your laptop to a table or desk if you need to step away.
- Do not use your computer to download, copy, store, or redistribute copyrighted materials for which you do not have the legal right to do so.
- If you anticipate being involved in undergraduate research, or working at GTRI, make your laptop supports full disk encryption, which may be needed for certain projects. In particular, Windows Home edition (including Windows 10 Home) doesn't support Bitlocker and therefore whole disk encryption, so Windows Pro, Enterprise, and Education editions of Windows 10 are recommended.

Two-factor Authentication

Georgia Tech considers the security and privacy of student and employee information to be of utmost importance. To keep our information safe, the Institute requires that all faculty, staff and students use two-factor authentication when accessing campus services and systems to strengthen the protection of student and employee data and maintain compliance with University System Information Security policy. For information on installation, visit <http://twofactor.oit.gatech.edu/students>. If you do not have a mobile phone, your phone is lost or stolen, or you simply wish to purchase a backup two-factor access device, you can purchase a blue DUO token (and have it setup for your GT account) at the BuzzCard Center located at 48 5th St. NW, 2nd floor (inside Barnes & Noble / GT Bookstore), Atlanta, GA. See [this link](#) for more information and the cost.

Campus Virtual Private Network (VPN)

Many campus digital services are accessible only through the campus network. However, this does not mean one must be physically present on campus to connect to the GT network. Connecting to the campus VPN allows for remote connections to the campus network. For more information, see [this link](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q1:** How can I determine if my current system will meet Georgia Tech's hardware requirements?
- A1:** Refer to the "Hardware Requirements" section of this document, the Student Computer Ownership (SCO) website (www.sco.gatech.edu), or the Enterprise Service Desk. Internet searches can inform you on how to find this information on your own computer, but it is generally under "My Computer" on Windows devices and "About this Mac" on Macs.
- Q2:** Is it better to upgrade my current computer or to buy a new one?
- A2:** This choice is dictated largely by your personal budget considerations. However, it is generally better to buy a new machine if you can. This machine will be faster, will have the latest technology, and generally have a longer usable life. Also, be aware that many modern laptops and most tablets cannot be upgraded. Upgrades are usually limited to adding RAM and, occasionally, internal storage.
- Q3:** If I purchase a new computer, how should I decide on the processor speed?
- A3:** Modern systems now make use of multiple processors, or cores, to achieve high performance, as now most individual processors operate at GHz speeds. For example,

dual-core machines are common and are sufficient for most needs, but upgrading to a quad-core or higher system will allow computationally intensive software (CAD, Matlab, etc.) to run faster. The best strategy is to purchase as many cores as possible since it would have a longer usable life and would be able to meet your educational needs during your time at Georgia Tech. A computer with few cores will adequately run the standard software but provides no room for expansion.

- Q4:** What should I do if I have a problem with the network connection in my residence hall room?
- A4:** All rooms in Georgia Tech residence halls have the necessary network connections for your computer. These connections are fully supported by Wreck Techs. If you have any problems, you should visit services.gatech.edu to review the available documentation. If support is still needed you can find the necessary contact information at the end of this document (and on the services.gatech.edu website).
- Q5:** If I do not own a printer, how will I print my documents?
- A5:** A moderate weekly quota is provided to students for color or black and white printing in any OIT Computer Cluster, and students may use their BuzzCard for pay-for-print if they ever need to exceed this quota. For larger printing needs, students may use a free central printing service (1200 pages/semester). Visit <https://print.gatech.edu> for more details. Additionally, some schools provide their students with additional free print allocation on a weekly, monthly, or semester basis.
- Q6:** If printers are optional, is it worth it for me to buy my own?
- A6:** While limited printing facilities are available across campus, it is certainly more convenient to have your own printer. Please see Answer 5 above for printing options. Note that wireless printing to personal printers in Housing is not supported.
- Q7:** I already have some of the standard software. May I purchase only certain packages from the Technology Store?
- A7:** Yes, you may purchase any package separately from the Technology Store. Call or email them for specific software prices.
- Q8:** How can I obtain software from Georgia Tech?

- A8:** Georgia Tech has site licenses for several software packages for use on your own computer. The software available can be downloaded at no cost from software.oit.gatech.edu.
- Q9:** I don't want to use one of the components of the standard software suite. Can I use something else?
- A9:** Standard software minimizes software conflicts and increases the quality of software support. If you decide to use something other than the standard software, then it is your responsibility to purchase and maintain the software. It will be your responsibility to eliminate any software conflicts with the standard software as you start to share documents with your fellow students and submit homework assignments to your professors.
- Q10:** Can I use Linux and open source software?
- A10:** Yes, however, OIT and Wreck Techs only provide "limited/best effort" support for Linux operating systems and software, and you will be responsible for ensuring that this software is fully compatible with the standard software, as described in Answer 9 above. Limited assistance with installation and with connecting to the wireless network is available through Wreck Techs and the Enterprise Service Desk.
- Q11:** Can I use an older OS?
- A11:** Do not use old operating systems that are no longer supported by their vendors, since they are unsecure when connected to the Internet. OIT supports only the software listed in this document.
- Q12:** Is there a place on campus that will service computers?
- A12:** You can contact the Enterprise Service Desk or Wreck Techs for support assistance. Located in the Clough Commons 2nd Floor RM 215, the Enterprise Service Desk can provide you with a number of local vendors if your computer is no longer covered under warranty. You can also contact Wreck Techs to have an RTA conduct a diagnostic check.

- Q13:** Where can I find more information about using the Georgia Tech network and computer systems?
- A13:** The following web pages contain detailed information and links to other useful pages: www.security.gatech.edu (GT Cybersecurity) services.gatech.edu (Enterprise Service Desk and Wreck Techs), and www.sco.gatech.edu (Student Computer Ownership).
- Q14:** What software can I install to prevent viruses or malware from infecting my computer?
- A14:** Windows Defender for PCs and Sophos and Apple Xprotect (built in) for Macs to help guard against viruses, spyware, and other malicious software.
- Q15:** Should I purchase a USB flash drive or external hard drive?
- A15:** Yes. These devices are an option for removable, often temporary storage. However, they can be easy to lose, so give great care to the type of information you store on these devices. Warning: These devices can transfer viruses from one machine to another, so it is important to use antivirus software, which will automatically scan these devices. A subscription to a cloud based backup solution like OneDrive for Business is still the recommended method for more permanent storage. (See Backup and FAQ Q23 for additional information.)
- Q16:** How can I protect my laptop from theft?
- A16:** Always lock your laptop to something sturdy using a cable lock. In addition, there are products available for tracking stolen laptops. Laptops should also be registered with the [Georgia Tech Police Department](#) to aid recovery when lost or stolen. Additionally, it is advisable to set a login password for each operating system on your computer to prevent exploitation of your information if the laptop is stolen.
- Q17:** Are there any advantages to purchasing either a Mac or a PC?
- A17:** Generally, the selection of a Macintosh or PC notebook is an individual choice. However, some departments may have specific recommendations. Contact your academic advisor for information to determine specific requirements and recommendations.
- Q18:** What are the guidelines for using my computer for gaming, business or other alternative functions?

- A18:** Please reference the [Acceptable Uses Policy](#) (AUP), the [Cyber Security Policy](#) (CSP), and the [Data Privacy Policy](#) (DPP).
- Q19:** What kind of system recovery options should I have if my machine does not have a recovery partition?
- A19:** You will need to have all your installation media available in case you need to reinstall your operating system.
- Q20:** How do I make certain my software is up to date?
- A20:** Secunia, for Windows, will check to see if your software is up to date. This is a free utility. AppFresh for Mac is also recommended.
- Q21:** Is there a place on campus where I could get my computer cleaned or where they can help me improve its performance?
- A21:** Yes, OIT-Enterprise Service Desk and Wreck Techs will assist you with this. Please refer to services.gatech.edu for services offered.
- Q22:** Can I use a router or switch in my dorm room?
- A22:** Routers are allowed, but a wireless router must have the broadcasting radio disabled to meet Georgia Tech Policies and Requirements. However, it is the student's responsibility for any activity that originates from their IP. Switches are not compatible with and are not allowed for use on the Wired LAWN network anywhere on campus, including residence halls.
- Q23:** What is the difference between online storage and online backup?
- A23:** Online storage can either be an additional space to store documents (like an additional drive) or it can synchronize files between your computer and a cloud based storage system. [Read more about Cloud Storage](#).

With online storage, if you delete files they are both flagged for removal and hidden from view, or are immediately written over. Some online storage solutions will retain backups but there is no guarantee that the files are retained, especially if there is a space limitation.

With online backup, even deleted files are retained until the end user intentionally navigates to that specific file and selects to purge the file securely. The best online backup systems do not impose a limit on the size of space you are utilizing for your backup and will keep multiple recoverable versions of your documents so that you have additional methods to undo changes or recover previous versions.

Q24: Is there a place on campus that will (or can) loan electronics to me?

A24: Yes, the Library has laptops, tablets, cameras, A/V equipment and more available for checkout for periods from 4 hours to 2 days, depending on the item. Equipment is available either from the Library's [INFODesk](#) on the Grove level (ground floor) in Price Gilbert. For a complete list of items available for instant checkout, and items that require an advance reservation, visit the Library's [Gadgets page](#).

UNIT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

In addition to the requirements above, the following units (Colleges/Schools) have specific requirements of all undergraduates taking courses within their unit:

Scheller College of Business:

- External Webcam (if not internal to the laptop)
- External Microphone (if not internal to the laptop)

NOTE: Students taking courses in specific units (Colleges/Schools) should always pay careful attention to additional required hardware and software as set forth in course syllabi.

Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering: Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering:

Recommended for Apple computers: Some classes require Windows-specific software and thus a Windows installation using Boot Camp. See Windows Compability in [this section](#) for more details.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

More information:

Georgia Tech Student Computer Ownership

Website: www.sco.gatech.edu

Technical/connectivity/compatibility questions:

Enterprise Service Desk/Wreck Techs

Telephone: 404-385-5555
Website: services.gatech.edu
Walk-in support: Enterprise Service Desk (Clough Suite 215, behind Kaldi's Coffee)
Howell Village (East Campus; 1st-floor of Howell Residence Hall)
West Village (West Campus; next to Panera, across from Village Bakery)

Two-factor Authentication Using Duo:

Website: twofactor.oit.gatech.edu

General pricing/availability/ordering:

Technology Store @ Georgia Tech (Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech)

Telephone: 404-894-2377
Fax: 404-894-2530
Email: techstore@gatech.edu
Website: techstuff.gatech.edu

Financial aid/alternative loans:

Georgia Tech Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid

Telephone: 404-894-4160
Email: finaid@gatech.edu
Website: www.finaid.gatech.edu