

Minimum Configurations for non-VMA Majors 2009-2010

The computer configurations listed below are recommended for basic use (word processing, high-speed Internet) and are considered to be the minimum specifications for an up-to-date computer. Students in Visual and Media Arts should consult the **Recommended Configurations for VMA Students** sheet for specialized recommendations.

- Any new computer purchase will meet and likely exceed these specifications. If you plan to bring a currently owned computer to Emerson, compare its specifications to those below. A computer with these specifications that is well maintained and protected from physical damage should last between 1 and 2 years.
- A new computer, well maintained and protected from physical damage, should last at least 3 to 4 years. Keep in mind, laptops are more prone to physical damage!

Computers

Platform	<i>Mac</i>	<i>PC</i>
Processor	1.66 GHz PowerPC or Intel	1.66 GHz AMD or Intel
Memory	1 GB	1 GB
Hard drive	80 GB	80 GB
External Storage	<i>See Suggested External Hard Drives Below</i>	
Connections	USB 2.0	USB 2.0
Graphics Memory	64 MB (integrated)	64 MB (integrated)

External Hard Drives

	Standard	Enhanced
Capacity	160 GB	250 GB
Spindle Speed	5400 RPM	5400 RPM
Connections	USB 2.0	USB 2.0
Price Range	\$60-\$100	\$90-\$110
<i>Example</i>	<i>Western Digital My Passport Essential</i>	<i>LaCie Rugged All-Terrain</i>

- Desktop or laptop, an external hard drive is also highly recommended for file storage and backup. You can also use it to easily transport files to and from the Emerson College computer labs.
- Printers are widely and easily available in the labs, but many students choose to bring personal inkjet printers to print documents in their rooms.
- We also recommend bringing an Ethernet cable for the fastest and most stable connection.
- For best results when purchasing computers and external drives, find user reviews, remain skeptical of no-name brands, and give careful consideration to your needs.

Feel free to call the IT Help Desk at 617.824.8080 or email helpdesk@emerson.edu with any questions!