

# **The School of Communications Laptop Technology Requirements**

Created by the Chief Technology Officer

Date: August 8, 2023

Version 1.0

**Purpose:** This document was created to help students select the best computer equipment to be successful while attending courses and classes at SOC

**Instructions:** Read the requirements below to know which technology to use when purchasing laptops, SD cards, and other equipment for our programs.

## **Technology Recommendations**

To make sure all students have the technology needed for our classes, the CHSOC recommends that all incoming students have or purchase a laptop computer. We also recommend that returning students have or purchase a laptop computer. This technology will be able to go with students when they graduate, taking along with them all their assignments and projects in one, organized place/device.

Because we know this is challenging for many students and families, we include two levels of laptops.

The minimum recommended specifications are listed below:

### **1. Mac Users:**

- Power User Specs: 14" or 16" MacBook Pro with M1 chip, 32GB Unified Memory, 1TB SSD Storage\*
- Essential Specs: 14" or 16" MacBook Pro with M1 chip, 16GB Unified Memory, 512GB SSD Storage

### **2. PC Users:**

- Memory/RAM: at least 16GB)
- Processor: Multi-core Intel i5/i7/i9 models (i9 is best). Preferably 4 or more processor cores. Ideally 9th generation and newer.
- Storage: At least 1TB hard drive, 7200 RPM, preferably SSD (fastest), HDD also good... buy as much as you can afford, you can always add external hard drives. Avoid SATA drive if possible.

### **Graphics Card: Depends on video editing software.**

- For example, Premiere Pro and Davinci Resolve do well with both AMD and NVIDIA.
- (Minimum 2GB memory), Operating System: Windows 10 or 11, Firewire or Thunderbolt Port: Built in or as an external dock.

## **Saving Your Work**

- Students will need an external hard drive to back up their projects because they cannot be stored on Howard University computers.
- Back up your files on Office 365 or use an external hard drive with 1TB.
- Students are also encouraged to buy an **SD card to store their work.**
- CHSOC is not responsible for lost files or lost data.
- Data saved on CHSOC equipment is erased when equipment is returned.
- Most of our professional camcorders require an SD card.
- These cards are available between 2GB and 32GB capacities.
- We recommend purchasing a full size SDHC card with 32GB/64GB capacity.
- Micro SD cards can be more difficult to work with.
- A good budget friendly option is the 32GB SanDisk Extreme Pro SDHC UHS-I card which should be available for less than \$15 online and in most stores.