

## Laptop FAQ

### **Why is this important?**

The communication field is changing quickly, and the convergence of various media through web-based forms is driving much of the innovation and opportunity. We've added courses in communication technology and web content and management, but you will need more hands-on experience to succeed in this environment.

### **I'm more interested in ministry and nonprofit applications. Is this something I really need?**

The cost of producing creative and effective communication is actually reduced for people who are skilled with this software. Working with these tools will make you more attractive to organizations devoted to the causes you care about.

### **I'm a speech or drama major. Why do I need this?**

Presentation software and mixed media are increasingly important aspects of these fields. You need to know more than how to do a Powerpoint. You need to be able to create pictures or video to support it. And many jobs in these fields include additional responsibilities in promotion and publishing that depend on these very tools.

### **Why a Mac?**

Many creative environments are Mac friendly or Mac driven. And the latest models (including this one) also run Windows programs. We expect our students to be "bilingual."

### **Why would I want to spend the extra money on the upgrade?**

The MacBook Pro is bigger and faster, and will probably hold up longer. It might be especially useful for video and film students working with larger files. The MacBook is adequate for our all our expectations.

### **Is this a free laptop?**

No. The cost of this requirement is added to tuition and fees for the fall semester.

### **What about financial aid?**

The cost of the laptop is considered part of the student's educational expense and may increase eligibility for grants and other forms of aid.

### **When should I apply for this?**

We need your application by July 1 so we can order the laptops, install the software and configure the connections to the campus network.

**Can I buy my own?**

Only if you want to spend more. We require legal versions of the software, and you are saving about \$2000.00 off the retail price for this package.

**What if I already bought a laptop?**

We expect you will buy several laptops in your lifetime. In this case you are buying a specific tool for a specific program and our purpose is to support our educational objectives. You may need a new laptop when you graduate after four years. You will need this machine for this program.

**Will I really use this?**

Freshmen take COM 110, Communication Technology. You will need this package for that class, and after you take that class you will be expected to use these tools throughout the program.

**What if I'm not sure I'm going to stay in this program?**

We're sure you will enjoy the laptop and that it can help you, even if you change majors. Be sure to take COM 110 early so you will get the most out of it. However, if you leave the program you will need to return or pay for the Adobe CS3 and Final Cut software (our pricing).

**What if I'm not sure this is what I want to do? Can I wait and buy this later?**

We wouldn't encourage buying it later. To get the most out of this purchase you should use these tools early and often. At any rate, you will need to have this before you take COM 110.

**What about support?**

The laptop includes a three-year warranty. Our computer center can help with networking and provide some support for included software. The software manufacturers also provide support.

**What if I lose it or break it?**

You own the machine, and will want to take care of it. It comes with a three-year warranty. You should check with your homeowners insurance about coverage if the machine is lost or stolen- in many cases this is covered, even if you are away at school.