Dear Incoming Chicago-Kent Student:

Congratulations and welcome to Chicago-Kent College of Law and the Information Technology Services (ITS) department! The ITS staff is delighted to be able to assist you in using technology to support your study of law at Chicago-Kent.

Chicago-Kent College of Law has undertaken as its ongoing mission an effort to integrate technology with a law school education. This mission is twofold: 1) using technology in the three to four years of law school itself to help learn legal concepts and complete school projects; and 2) familiarizing students with the technology that they will be faced with in the practice of law. For these reasons, Chicago-Kent requires all law students to own a computer to complete their law school education.

Your life as a law school student is much easier when you have ready access to information using your own computer. You will be expected to check your email account daily since this is the main method of communication throughout the law school community. Many professors make class materials available to their students over the Internet and expect that students will refer to them online. You will also complete much of your legal research via computer using the LexisNexis and Westlaw research services from school and at home.

This letter contains a set of recommended computer specifications for a Mac and a PC. This outlines the specifications that are necessary if you already own a computer and would like to continue to use it for law school. These are guidelines of what you should purchase if you do not already own a computer.

**Laptop vs. Desktop**

In purchasing a new computer, the first decision is whether to purchase a laptop or a desktop computer. Whether to purchase a laptop or desktop computer is entirely up to you. Each type has its own benefits. Chicago-Kent has wireless access points located in all areas of the school as well as over 1,800 network ports where you can log into the network and access email, the Internet, legal research services, and on-line legal databases. On the other hand, desktop computers frequently cost less than laptop computers. For the same money as a laptop, you can usually get a more robust desktop and possibly some extras.

**Supported Operating Systems**

- Windows 10
- Mac Mojave (10.14), High Sierra (10.13), Sierra (10.12), El Capitan (10.11)

**Financial Aid and a Computer Purchase**

You will be able to include the purchase of a computer as part of the cost of attendance at Chicago-Kent when calculating your financial aid package. This cost is automatically included in the financial aid package for all first-year students. However, due to federal regulations governing the disbursement of financial aid loan checks, you will not be able to pick up your loan checks prior to your arrival at Chicago-Kent. Therefore, if you purchase your computer prior to the first day of classes, you must pay for your computer or upgrades with your own funds or credit card. Additionally, your academic year federal and/or private loans will be disbursed in two installments (one-half each semester). Therefore, when your loan checks arrive at Chicago-Kent, they will be credited to your tuition account (one-half each semester) and you can request a refund of the amount in excess of your tuition each semester through the Bursar’s Office. The combined fall and spring semester refunds may be used to reimburse you for your computer purchase or upgrade.
**Recommended Computer Specifications**

If you have a computer that nearly meets the minimum requirements and is extremely costly to upgrade, please call the Information Technology Services at (312) 906-5300 or emailing helpdesk@kentlaw.iit.edu so that we can assist you in determining the best solution for both your short and long-term needs.

Chicago-Kent offers student discounts for Apple and Dell computer. Please refer to [Apple Student Discounts](#) and [Dell Student Discounts](#) for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Windows Laptops</th>
<th>Apple</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>13” or 14”</td>
<td>Mac Air or MacBook Pro 13”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>1.86Ghz Intel Core 2 Duo</td>
<td>Intel processor</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>8GB Memory or higher</td>
<td>8GB Memory or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hard Drive</td>
<td>6GB of free space</td>
<td>6GB of free space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warranty</td>
<td>Manufacture warranty</td>
<td>AppleCare</td>
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- Surface Pro, Surface Books, and Surface Laptop devices are supported (Non-Pro Surface devices are NOT supported)

**Microsoft Office**

As a new student at Chicago-Kent College of Law you are given a license to Microsoft Office 365 at no charge until you graduate. If you are buying a new computer, please do not purchase a Microsoft Office product.

**Anti-virus software**

As a new student at Chicago-Kent College of Law you have the option to install Symantec Endpoint Protection at no charge.

If you have any questions regarding these computer specifications or anything about computers at Chicago- Kent College of Law, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Technology Services by calling (312) 906-5300 or emailing helpdesk@kentlaw.iit.edu.