

March 6, 2022

Dear College of Engineering Student,

As a student in the College of Engineering, you will utilize computing extensively throughout your undergraduate studies at UAH. All incoming students (freshmen or transfer) are required to have their own laptop for completing assignments and/or projects/tests and in some cases, it is expected that students will have their laptops during class. ***Please check with your instructor if you are expected to bring your laptop to every class period. In some cases, classes/labs may have university owned computers which may be the only computer allowed by your instructor in class.***

Some or all of your assignments/exams may be required to be completed through the use of a laptop with internet connection via WiFi and a camera. Lack of access could result in earning no points for the assignment/exam, and potentially failing a course. NOTE: A device that does not conform to the guidelines in this document WILL severely disadvantage you in meeting individual course and overall program requirements. Thus, **IT IS IMPERATIVE TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE ADEQUATELY PREPARED WITH THE APPROPRIATE LAPTOP.** Chromebooks do not meet these requirements. Apple products are typically not recommended.

Once you are officially enrolled as a student at UAH, you should be able to access Chargerware from my.UAH.edu and review what software you can download to your personal computers. The following is the minimum requirement for laptops.

**Hardware:**

- **CPU/Processor:** Intel Core i5 minimum, Intel Core i7 or i9 recommended (64 bit). For Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering students and Electrical & Computer Engineering students, Intel Core i7 or i9 quad core or better (64bit) with a separate graphics adapter (ex: nVidia, AMD, etc.) is suggested for efficient operation of SolidEdge (for 3D modeling), graphics rendering and virtualization.
- **Hard Drive:** 500 GB SSD (7200 RPM HDD may suffice, but is not recommended)
- **RAM:** 8 GB, 16 GB or higher recommended
- **Screen resolution:** 1280x800 or higher
- **Wireless Network Card**
  - Built-in camera, microphone, and speaker
- **Warranty:** Recommend 4 years or more of support.

**Software:**

- **Operating System:** Windows 11 (IMPORTANT NOTE: Most technical software is only available for Windows, thus Apple products and Chromebooks are

NOT recommended)

- **Adobe Reader**
- **Microsoft Office:** Check Chargerware for Office 365 Education (free for students for both PC and MAC – note, UAH does not offer support for downloading or installation)
- **Google Apps:** Provided for all students for email and online office tools.

Listed below are typical software used at various stages in your undergraduate program. This is provided for informational and planning purposes and subject to change. You are encouraged to wait to acquire the software at the appropriate semester. In some cases, your department may have arrangements with the vendor to get a license for use for a fixed period of time. Your instructor will be able to provide this information. In many cases, the software is available in departmental teaching laboratories and in some of the open access computer laboratories in the College of Engineering.

Aerospace Engineering: MATLAB, Excel, Python, SolidEdge, Arduino Sketch (open source)

Chemical Engineering: MATLAB, Excel, Python, MathCAD, Aspen Plus, SuperPro (note that these programs currently are available only on Microsoft Windows)

Civil Engineering: MATLAB, Excel, Python, MicroStation (Bentley Systems, free student version available for registered students), STAAD Pro (Bentley Systems) ArcGIS (Esri), STAAD Foundation (Bentley Systems), WaterCad (Bentley Systems), RAM Structural System (Bentley Systems), HEC (open source, free download)

Computer and Cybersecurity Engineering: MATLAB, Excel, Python, Several classes at the 200/300/400 level use Unix (check departmental laboratory machines for access during class), VisualStudio, virtualization software (VMWare, VirtualBox). Some classes require software installed only on University owned machines in departmental laboratories.

Electrical Engineering: MATLAB, Excel, Python. Some classes require software installed only on University owned machines in departmental laboratories

Industrial and Systems Engineering : MATLAB, Excel, Python

Mechanical Engineering : MATLAB, Excel, Python, SolidEdge, Arduino Sketch (open source), Nastran/Patran