UAB School of Engineering Laptop Requirement

The goal of the UAB School of Engineering curriculum is to prepare its students for a 21st century engineering career. In addition to developing a deep understanding of engineering fundamentals, students will be prepared to use contemporary tools and technologies. This future will be increasingly defined by digital technology, team-based workspaces and advancements in engineering education. Therefore, all students in the School of Engineering who are registered for an engineering course are required to have a qualified laptop.

Required minimum specifications
To be a successful Engineering Student, the School offers the following recommendations. The intentions of these specifications are to provide a student with a recommendation for a laptop that will be a useful and usable resource throughout their four year undergraduate program. The School has partnered with Dell Inc. to provide some special discounts on Dell laptops and computers through Dell’s website.

- A laptop running Windows 7 64 bit or Windows 8.1 64 bit OS (not Windows 10) natively
- Intel i5 or higher processor (4th generation or newer)
- 250 gigabyte minimum (500 gigabyte or larger recommended)
- 4 gigabyte RAM minimum (8 gigabyte recommended)
- 15” Display (minimum 1366 x 768)
- Wireless (Required)
- External video port (VGA or with a VGA convertor)
- Webcam (recommended but not required)
- External mouse (USB or wireless; recommended but not required)

It is not recommended to run Windows OS in a virtual solution. In addition, many software packages required for Engineering classes are not available for Mac OS, Linux, Android, or Chrome. Therefore, non-Windows tablets and Apple laptops are not recommended. Note that the above recommendations are not manufacturer specific.

IT Technical Support
The School of Engineering provides information technology support in BEC 357 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Support will include:

- Helping students install software for engineering curriculum
- Helping students to connect to remote computing resources for engineering software that cannot be licensed/provided for student laptop installation.
- Providing guidance on future laptop or peripheral purchases.
- Providing guidance on general laptop issues (Ex: wireless)

Software Specific Support
Software specific support will be provided by teaching assistants in areas reserved for student computing in the BEC Building.