KGI Laptop and Software Requirements

Even with open access to computer lab PCs, KGI requires that all students have a personal laptop computer and specified software. Students are required to use computers frequently for communications and academic activities.

Access to the Internet is also very important for supplementing course work. Many internal KGI network resources can be accessed from the internet. If you already own a laptop computer it needs to run Windows 10, have a wireless network connection and up-to-date antivirus software. If you are considering the purchase of a new laptop here are some answers to common questions:

Where to buy? - Purchasing a system from one of the major vendors is recommended since they have excellent systems, good warranties, and convenient Internet support. The warranty and the vendors' guaranteed response times are especially important for laptops. The Claremont Colleges Huntley Bookstore sells many laptop brands.

When to buy? - All new students are required to have a laptop in time for new student orientation.

Can I get a discount through KGI? - Unfortunately, no. Check with the Huntley Bookstore to see if they have any deals that you can take advantage of.

Are there compatibility issues to worry about? – KGI is a PC Windows environment. Anyone choosing to use an Apple MacBook laptop is required to use Apple's Boot Camp or a virtualization product such as VMware Fusion or Parallels Desktop with Microsoft Windows installed. KGI Help Desk support for Apple MacBook laptops will be minimal at best.

What specific components should I look for? - Requirements and suggestions are listed below.

- **Operating System (OS)** Windows (minimum v 10) or Apple MacOS (minimum v Catalina + running Windows 10 as virtual OS) -

- **CPU Intel i5 or higher** with Geekbench 5 multi-core score of 1650 or higher -
  Note 1: searching which computers fit this specification can be done here: https://browser.geekbench.com/v5/cpu/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=Intel+Core+i5,
  Or students can download an App to check their computer for free from this site: https://www.geekbench.com/
- **8 GB RAM or more - Note:** students should opt for more RAM if possible
- **256 GB Hard drive storage - Note:** more is better
- **Cloud storage account,** such as Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, Box, etc.
- **802.11ac wireless networking**
- **A working webcam**
- **Working headphones with a microphone**
- **Internet wireless networking speed of 3 Mbs - Note:** Internet connection speeds can be found by using a service such as the following: https://www.speedtest.net/

Screen - Personal choice and budget will dictate the screen size, resolution and touch capability.

External monitors and data projectors – Some KGI projectors require a VGA connection. Other KGI projectors and monitors require an HDMI connection. You will need to purchase the appropriate adapter that will connect your laptop to the projectors and monitors that you need to use. KGI does not provide video adapters to students.

Software – Antivirus software is required in order to access the KGI network. Windows 10 comes with antivirus built-in.

Required academic hardware & software - The following items are required for KGI coursework. Prices are approximate and do not include sales tax.

- Microsoft Office, Project, Visio - free download from https://kgi.onthehub.com/
- Matlab (MBS students only) - $100 from Huntley Bookstore. Do not purchase until you actually need it for a class.

Recommended academic software - The following packages are recommended for KGI coursework. Prices are approximate and do not include sales tax. Do not purchase until you actually need it for a class.

- Solidworks (Windows only) - $100 from Huntley Bookstore
- Endnote (Windows only) - $100 from Huntley Bookstore
- Adobe Acrobat Pro - $120 from Huntley Bookstore

Contact the Huntley Bookstore about academic pricing on software titles that they carry.

Chromebooks and iPads are great for taking notes, but will not be suitable for coursework at KGI.

If you have more specific questions, please feel free to email me.

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