

Student technology guidelines

Learning technologies support



For Aurora College students to engage with the virtual learning environment effectively, the following minimum technology requirements are required:

	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Form Factor	Desktop, Notebook	Netbook, Ultrabook, Tablet
Processor	Core iSeries (i3, i5, i7)	Celeron, Pentium
Video Card	Dedicated card with 256mb GRAM (highly recommended)	
Memory	4Gb RAM	2Gb RAM
Hard Drive	256Gb	128Gb
Screen Size	19" Monitor – Desktop 13" Screen – Notebook	11" Screen – Netbook 10" Screen – Tablet
Connectivity	Built-in Ethernet Port	Wireless Only Ethernet dongle
Peripherals	Keyboard Mouse	On-screen keyboard software Touch screen
Operating System	Windows 7 SP1 Mac OS X 10.8	Windows XP Mac OS X 10.7
Warranty	Current Next Business Day	Return to base None or lapsed warranty

Issues related to the use of models with lower specifications

- **Ergonomics** – Aurora College students spend a greater-than-average time using technology in the course of their school day. As such, the Department has a responsibility to ensure that all work environments are ergonomically sound, and WHS safe. Dedicated keyboards, a suitable screen size and proper desk environments will help to prevent any ergonomics related injuries from occurring.
- **Processing Power** – As the Department's virtual school, Aurora College has an obligation to investigate new and emerging technologies that have the potential to provide a richer learning environment for all students. Often these new systems can have a higher than normal system requirement. One example is the iSee meeting software currently under review. This software requires a dedicated video card to provide an interactive 3D environment in which students and staff can collaborate.
- **Connectivity/Bandwidth** – The use of video streaming and content streaming requires an uninterrupted and reliable network connection. A dedicated cabled network connection eliminates minor problems such as

network dropout, and configuration issues, as well as providing a higher speed connection to the school network backbone.

- **Power Utilisation** – Devices classified as Netbooks or Ultrabooks are aimed at the mobility market. These devices use advanced power management to run every component of the device at the bare minimum power to maximise battery life. This affects the responsiveness and the ability to operate more than one software package at a time. Laptops are designed differently and provide a better balance between the need for computing power and the preservation of battery life.
- **Support Response** – Devices with a full (4 year) Next Business Day response require the vendor to repair or replace the device in the minimum time allowed. While a number of the more remote sites will not have a true “next business day” response, they will nonetheless receive a faster and more urgent priority for their issue. Return to base warranties are unacceptable as the device must be physically shipped to the vendor for repair, often leading to repair lead times of up to two weeks, and often much longer.
- **Cloud Based Systems** – Aurora College regularly requires students to have a reliable connection to cloud based systems, hosted both internally to the Department and externally. These systems include the Office365 suite, Google Apps4Education, Moodle and other management systems. Students using DER/Netbook devices have reported issues both in connecting to these systems initially, and using the services once they are connected. Desktop systems are not affected due to the configuration and permanent connection to the Departments infrastructure.

Working environment requirements

In addition to the above requirements for the specific device the students use to connect to their Aurora College classes, the environment in which they work is required to have access to a wireless network. **The students utilise a supplementary device** to complete related tasks such as taking notes, viewing digital textbooks and other resources, and completing class work. These supplementary devices are BYO Devices, and it cannot be guaranteed that they will have the ability to connect to physical networks, or that the capacity to do so would be available in suitable locations. The provision of a Department approved wireless network is necessary for the successful operation of these supplementary devices.

Suitable products from the current list of standard model computers

The following are devices taken from the [standard devices for schools intranet page](#) that meet the requirements defined above.

- HP EliteDesk 800 G2 (Advanced Desktop)
- HP Probook 430 G4 (Base Touch Notebook)
- HP Elitebook 840 G3 (Advanced Touch Notebook)

For further information, please contact:

Ben Hillsley
 Learning Technologies Support Officer
 Email: support@aurora.nsw.edu.au
 Phone: 1300 610 733