Today, communication majors are just as likely to encounter PCs and Macs in the classroom and the workplace. The choice to buy a PC or Mac should depend on the student’s concentration within the communication major, which will determine what software the student will use on a regular basis. Computer labs in the School of Communication make all instructional software available to students but some may choose to purchase software to install on a laptop for personal use.

### When a PC or Mac is a good choice:
- Strategic Communication
- Media and Popular Culture Studies

When the primary needs of the workplace revolve around writing well, either platform is a good option. Use of business applications and the ability to blog and create podcasts play important roles in the workplace.

#### Recommended Configuration:

**PC or Mac Laptop**
- **Operating System:** Microsoft Windows 7 or higher
- **Processor:** Multicore Intel or AMD processor. 64 bit.
- **GPU:** Nvidia GeForce GTX 650 or higher
- **RAM Memory:** 16GB
- **Hard Drive:** 500GB+

**Recommended Software:** Word processor (Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Libre Office), Celtx

**Optional Software (Games):** Autodesk Entertainment Creation Suite (3ds Max Preferred)*, Blender, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, video game creation software (Unreal Engine, GameMaker, Gamedevry, Game Salad), video game recording software (Action or Fraps), Steam Account

*Autodesk provides free 3-year educational licenses to users with .edu email accounts.

### When a PC is the better option:
- Game and Interactive Media Design

PCs are generally used by programmers, game designers and developers, and 3D modelers, animators and digital artists working in the game industry.

#### Recommended Configuration:

**PC Laptop**
- **Operating System:** Windows 7 or higher
- **Processor:** Multicore Intel or AMD processor. 64 bit.
- **GPU:** Nvidia GeForce GTX 650 or higher
- **RAM Memory:** 16GB
- **Hard Drive:** 500GB+

**Recommended Software:** Word processor (Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Libre Office), Celtx

**Optional Software (Games):** Autodesk Entertainment Creation Suite (3ds Max Preferred)*, Blender, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, video game creation software (Unreal Engine, GameMaker, Gamebryo, Game Salad), video game recording software (Action or Fraps), Steam Account

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### When a Mac is the better option:
- Electronic Media Production
- Strategic Communication (Graphic Design and Creative Production)
- Journalism

The Mac platform is the computer of choice for producers, directors, writers, and editors in television and film and for creative teams at work in ad agencies.

#### Recommended Configuration:

**Apple MacBook Pro Laptop**
- **Operating System:** latest version of OS
- **Processor:** Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support
- **RAM Memory:** 16GB
- **Drive space:** 256+ additional: 16GB class 10 SDHC memory card (For ELM and Journalism)

**Recommended Hardware for ELM:**
Lacie or G-Drive external hard drive with Thunderbolt or Firewire 800 support. (Prepare to pay in the $200 range)

**Recommended Software:** Word processor (Microsoft Office, Apple Pages, Google Docs, Libre Office), Celtx, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite (not needed until you start coursework)