

# Dell Computers

## General information:

When it comes to PCs, there are many options out there. We sell Dell Latitudes because they are a professional computer designed to survive the wear and tear of student's busy life. The Dell Studio laptop is another great option, however Dell does not provide educational pricing for them. Some people are drawn to the Dell Inspiron laptops because of their low price. However we do not recommend them because they are made with lower quality parts, making the computer more likely to fail or become obsolete before you graduate. We have put together three standard Latitude Builds designed to suite your needs for your time at Lewis & Clark. If you are uncertain which computer is best for you, please see the descriptions below.

## Which Dell Latitude should I buy?



If you are looking for a quality computer at a low price, the **Latitude E5420 Basic Build** is the one for you. It has a 14 inch screen, a new Intel i3 processor, an 8X DVD with Cyberlink Power DVD, webcam and built in wireless. However it is a good idea to upgrade the RAM from the standard 3 GB to our recommended 4 GB to ensure that this will still be a competitive computer when you are a senior. You can also upgrade the RAM at a later date with help from the IT department.

The **Latitude E5420 Recommended Build** is our recommended computer. It has all the features of the low end latitude, as well as a larger hard drive and more RAM. It also includes the new Intel i5 processor, which has the ability to speed up or slow down depending on the user's activity. This makes the computer more powerful, saves energy, and prolongs the life of your computer. It also has a built in Bluetooth Module, enabling the computer to sync with Bluetooth devices.

## What if I want to make changes to these builds?

We request that you purchase one of our standard builds to streamline your computer purchasing experience. However there are changes that Dell offers with these computers. You can personalize your laptop by making it red or blue instead of slate grey. If you like to use your laptop when you're out and about you should consider extending your battery warranty. Most laptop batteries lose their ability to hold a charge after only 1 to 2 years of use. Battery replacements are usually only covered under warranty for 1 year; after that you have to pay for a replacement yourself (a new battery for the E5420 is currently \$149). Watching movies with a bunch of friends is a great college bonding experience, but it can be difficult on a laptop with a small screen. However if you get a large laptop it may be too heavy to carry around everywhere. Get a monitor instead and you'll be able to enjoy the large screen in your room while still having the portability of a laptop. You can also get a laptop stand or a dock and port replicator for added comfort and convenience. If you would like to make any other changes like increasing RAM, please contact us and we'll help you build a custom laptop.

## What else should I get with my computer?

You will find a word processing program necessary for a lot of your class work. While there are many alternatives, we support Microsoft Office (Word, Power Point, Excel, Outlook) because it is the most compatible and widely used word processor. We offer a student license of Office for \$80. You should also get an external hard drive. Everyone knows that you should save your work, but a lot of people

forget that you should also back it up in case your hard drive fails. You can save many small files on a USB Flash drive or on the 1 GB of space Lewis & Clark provides to all students at [webdisk.lclark.edu](http://webdisk.lclark.edu). However if you would like to back up your computer's entire hard drive we recommend getting an external hard drive at least as large as your computer's. It is also a good place to store photos or videos that you don't want filling up your computer's hard drive.

### **Free antivirus software**

The Lewis & Clark College Information Technology department provides Symantec EndPoint Protection free to all students. Because of this, it is unnecessary to buy antivirus software. To download Symantec, go to: [http://www.lclark.edu/information\\_technology/security/symantec/](http://www.lclark.edu/information_technology/security/symantec/)

### **What specs do you recommend?**

To ensure that you have a computer that will last you four years we recommend the following:

- Windows 7 Home or Professional Edition.
- Hard drive: at least 160 GB. We strongly recommend upgrading to 250 GB or larger if you plan to store audio or video files on your computer.
- At least a 2.20 GHZ Intel Core 2 Duo processor.
- 4 GB RAM.
- A CD/DVD drive. The DVD+/-RW drive is recommended as it can burn CDs and DVDs.
- 802.11b/g/n wireless card.
- 3 year warranty.

Computer Purchase Program  
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