

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

COMPUTER REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 2009-2010

Hamline University requires all Hamline law students to have a computer. The reasons are essentially as follows: (1) Computers are being utilized by attorneys extensively in law practice today. We hope that our graduates will be proficient in the use of computers, as this is likely to enhance their ability to practice law effectively. (2) Requiring students to own a computer will enable them to obtain financial aid loans to purchase a computer. (3) Several members of the law faculty use electronic teaching resources in connection with their courses. Requiring students to own computers will tend to assure that all students will be able to use those resources, not only in the law school and University computer labs, but in more convenient settings, such as their home, as well.

Some recommended minimum specifications for computers under this requirement are listed later in this document. Based on these specifications, students may borrow up to \$2000 through financial aid sources to purchase a computer and reasonably related accessories. This will be a one-time allowance in each student's available financial aid during their stay at Hamline. The additional funds, if a student needs to borrow, will generally come from Graduate PLUS or alternative loans. If a student needs to borrow to comply with this requirement and does not qualify for such a loan, he or she may request a waiver of the computer requirement, based on hardship, from the Assistant Dean of Students.

If a student already has a computer that does not meet the recommended minimum specifications, and believes that it will adequately serve his or her needs, the student does not need to purchase a new computer to be in compliance with the computer requirement. Students should be aware, however, that computers with specifications significantly below those recommended may be unable to use some programs that may be useful. In addition, computers that do not meet Hamline's minimum standards, described in the attached University Computer Requirements and Recommendations, will not be permitted to connect to Hamline University's network.

In part because surveys indicate that a large majority of law firms utilize them, we recommend that students have a Windows based computer (a APC® rather than a AMac®). In addition, we recommend that students purchase a brand name computer with a warranty and/or service plan for the length of time you anticipate you will be using the computer. We also recommend that students consult with their insurance agent as to whether their current insurance covers damage to or theft of their computer, and if it does not, we recommend that they obtain such insurance coverage.

Students will be in compliance with the computer requirement by owning either a desktop or laptop computer. Generally speaking, one will find that laptops are more expensive than desktops with equivalent specifications. On the other hand, some may find laptops to be more convenient, as the law school has made power and network connections available at student seating in its largest classrooms and several library carrels, as well as wireless access. In addition, if you wish to type your exams, you must do so on your own laptop running Windows software. (If you are using a MacIntosh computer, you will need to purchase a copy of Windows

XP with Service Pack 2 or 3 or a copy of a 32 bit version of Windows Vista with Service Pack 1 and install it on your computer using Apple's "Boot Camp" software, which is included with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard software.)

We believe that computers meeting the following specifications will be sufficient to meet students' needs for the next three to four years at Hamline. If financially feasible, however, students may wish to consider purchasing computers with higher specifications, such as a more powerful processor or a larger hard drive. A review of current pricing (as of April 2009) suggests that desktop computers meeting our recommended specifications are priced well within the available financial aid. Laptop computers meeting the specifications, however, run from few hundred dollars below to in excess of the available financial aid.

Recommended Hardware Standards for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Hamline University School of Law recommends that new computers students purchase meet or exceed the following recommended hardware standards. These standards meet or exceed those that have been recommended for the University as a whole.

Windows-based machine:

2.4GHz or faster Intel Core 2 Duo or Core 2 Quad Processor (2.0 GHz or faster should be sufficient for laptops) or the equivalent.

4 GB of RAM.

160 GB or larger hard drive .

DVD-RW or DVD+/-RW Drive.

Mouse or Trackball (desktop systems only).

Keyboard and speakers (desktop systems only).

Monitor (or LCD Panel) with at least 12" of viewable screen.

Standard 10/100 Base-T Ethernet network card (Required only for laptops and desktops used to connect physically to Hamline's network on campus).

Wireless: Laptops should have a standard 802.11g wireless card.

Operating System: Windows XP or Windows Vista (any version although XP should have Service Pack 2).

Printer: A personal printer costing \$125-\$200 should satisfy most needs.

A 1GB or larger USB flash (thumb) drive.

Students should also strongly consider the purchase of a full feature word processing program, such as Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect. Student and Teacher editions of Microsoft and Corel Office Suites are generally available for significantly less than their Standard editions. The word processing program in Hamline's computer labs is Microsoft Word.

Laptop purchasers should consider purchase of a protective carrying case designed for laptops.

Antivirus Software

(1) If you plan to connect to Hamline's network on campus, either through a wireless connection or the more traditional hardwire,

You will have to comply with the attached University Computer Requirements.

(2) If you do not plan on connecting to Hamline's network:

We recommend that you purchase and install an anti-virus software program that provides regular updates if one did not come pre-installed on your computer.

Off Campus Internet Access:

Students living off campus who wish to connect to the Internet are responsible for opening an account with an ISP (Internet Service Provider). Depending upon the type of ISP connection they choose (dial up, cable or DSL), they will need either a modem or network card/router. For more information, students should contact their ISP. Hamline does not endorse or recommend any service provider, nor does the University underwrite remote access.