Hamline University requires all Hamline law students to have a computer. The reasons are essentially as follows: (1) Computers are being utilized extensively by attorneys 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.

Students will be in compliance with the computer requirement by owning either a desktop or laptop computer. Most current students have laptops. We recommend a computer with a Windows operating system (a “PC” rather than a “Mac”).

If you wish to type your exams, you must do so on your own laptop running Windows software. The current minimum software requirements of the SofTest program are available on the Examsoft web site. As of March 2010, the precise address is http://www.examsoft.com/dotnet/faqs/faq.aspx#4

Important: If you wish to type your exams using a MacIntosh computer, see the System Requirements at the end of this document.

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.

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, such computers may not be permitted to connect to Hamline University’s network.

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. Based on these specifications, students may borrow up to $1600 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 for Students and Multicultural Affairs.

**Recommended Hardware Standards for the 2010-2011 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:**

- 2.1 GHz or faster Intel Core 2 Duo, Core 2 Quad, or Core-i3 Processor or the equivalent.
- 4 GB of RAM.
- 300 GB or larger hard drive.
- DVD-RW or DVD+/−RW Drive or CD/DVD Burner.
- 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).
- For Wireless Connectivity, Laptops should have a wireless adapter that supports 802.11a (preferred), 802.11n (compatible) or 802.11b/g (compatible) standards.
- Operating System: Windows XP with Service Pack 2 or 3, Windows Vista, or Windows 7
- Printer: A personal printer costing $125-$200 should satisfy most needs.
- A 4 GB or larger USB flash (thumb) drive.
- Antivirus Software

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.
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.

System Requirements for typing your exam using a MacIntosh computer:

To type your exams using a MacIntosh computer, you will need to purchase a copy of Windows XP with Service Pack 3, a 32 or 64 bit version of Windows Vista with Service Pack 2, or a 32 or 64 bit version of Windows 7 and install it on your computer. To install Windows XP or Vista, you must have Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard software that has Apple’s “Boot Camp” software. To install Windows 7, you must have Mac OS X 10.6 and the Boot Camp 3.1 update.

These System Requirements for the Softest program are correct as of March 2010 according to the Examsoft web site. For any updates please visit the web site. As of March 2010, the precise address is

http://www.examsoft.com/dotnet/faqs/faq.aspx#4