All students are required to have a portable computer (laptop or notebook) with the following minimum capabilities. The MAE department does not make recommendations on vendors or specific models.

**Hardware Requirements:**

- **Graphics:** Dedicated Graphics Processor with 128 Mb minimum, 256 Mb recommended (note: integrated graphics are not recommended due to limited performance with 3-D graphics software)
- **Main Processor:** Dual Core Processor (recommend 2 GHz or faster, 1 MB L2 Cache or better)
- **Video Screen:** 1280x800 or higher resolution recommended
- **Memory:** 2 GB minimum, 3 GB or greater recommended
- **Hard Drive:** 100 GB or greater recommended (5400 rpm or faster recommended)
- **Optical Drive:** CDRW/DVD minimum, DVD +/- RW recommended
- **Wireless LAN:** 802.11 b/g Wi-Fi
- **Universal Serial Bus:** minimum 1 free USB 2.0 or USB 3.0 port
- **Optional Capabilities:** Bluetooth, FireWire, Mobile Broadband, Modem
- **Warranty Support:** We recommend students have Next Business Day service support to minimize disruptions to courses in the event of a hardware failure.

**Software Requirements:**

- **Operating System:**
  - Recommended: Windows Vista Business (32 bit)
  - Acceptable: Other versions of Vista (32 or 64 bit) or Windows XP Professional
- **Office Productivity Software:**
  - Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 recommended
- **Information on how to obtain this software at reduced cost is available at these locations:**
  - [http://software.ufl.edu/](http://software.ufl.edu/)
  - [http://www.software.ufl.edu/ms/](http://www.software.ufl.edu/ms/) (MS Office Enterprise Edition at nominal cost)
  - [http://software.ufl.edu/mcafee/](http://software.ufl.edu/mcafee/) (virus protection software)
- **The following software is used in specific courses:** SolidWorks, Matlab, LabVIEW.
  - Instructions for obtaining copies of these software packages via site licenses or at greatly reduced cost are given in the required courses.