THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

BSD Endpoint Hardware Standards

FY27-Q1 · November 2026

Next review: April 2027

BSD Information Services (BSDIS)



Why Hardware Standards?



Faster Setup

Pre-configured stock means new computers can be deployed quickly without starting from scratch every time.



Better Security

Every device gets the same security software, so nothing falls through the cracks.



Easier Support

When everyone uses known hardware, our team can fix problems faster and more reliably.



Longer Lifespan

We select equipment built to last 5 years — saving money and reducing how often you need a new device.

Two Tiers of Equipment

Most people get Standard equipment. Heavy Compute is for specialized research and technical roles.

Standard

For office staff, administrators, and most faculty

- Dell Pro 14" laptop (preferred)
- Dell Pro Tower desktop (if needed)
- Apple MacBook Pro 14" (Mac users)
- Apple Mac mini desktop (if needed)
- 2× 27" FHD monitors
- Keyboard, mouse & dock included
- 4-year warranty

Heavy Compute

For researchers, data scientists & technical staff

- Dell Pro Max laptop (preferred)
- Dell Precision mobile workstation
- Dell Pro Max Tower (when needed)
- Apple MacBook Pro 16" (Mac users)
- Apple Mac Studio desktop (when needed)
- 2× 27" UltraSharp 4K monitors
- 4-year warranty

Windows Laptops/Desktops

Standard — Dell Pro 14"

Processor	Intel Core Ultra 7
Memory	32 GB
Storage	1 TB SSD
Graphics	Built-in
Network	Wi-Fi + wired (via dock)
Warranty	4 years

Desktop option: Dell Pro Tower
OS: Windows 11 Pro

Heavy Compute — Dell Pro Max

Processor	Intel Core Ultra 9
Memory	64 GB
Storage	2 TB SSD
Graphics	Dedicated GPU
Network	Wi-Fi + wired (2 Gbps)
Warranty	4 years

Laptop preferred; tower available for heavy workloads
Also available: Dell Precision workstations

Apple Laptops/Desktops

Mac hardware is ordered through CDW, our Apple supplier. AppleCare+ for Schools is required with every Mac.

Standard — MacBook Pro 14"

Chip	Apple M5 Pro
Memory	24 GB
Storage	1 TB SSD
Display	14" Liquid Retina XDR (mini-LED)
Battery	Up to 22 hours
Warranty	4 yr AppleCare+ for Schools

Monitors: 2× 27" FHD (standard allocation)

Desktop option: Mac mini, with the same specs

Heavy Compute — MacBook Pro 16"

Chip	Apple M5 Max
Memory	48–128 GB
Storage	2 TB SSD
Display	16" Liquid Retina XDR (mini-LED)
Battery	Up to 24 hours
Warranty	4 yr AppleCare+ for Schools

Optional: Apple Studio Display (with dept. approval). Other display upgrades can be requested.

Desktop option: Mac Studio, with the same specs

Unsupported Hardware

Some computers cannot be purchased or supported by BSDIS, regardless of who pays for them.

Windows ARM64 processors (Snapdragon, etc.)

Unsupported CPU. Cannot run some mandatory security and management software packages.

Apple MacBook Neo

Low performance; cannot handle the workloads most BSD roles require.

Consumer laptops (e.g. Inspiron, Envy)

Non-Pro/business lines lack enterprise management features and durability ratings.

Chromebooks & tablets

Too limited for BSD work: they cannot run certain required software or be managed with BSDIS tools.

Monitors & Accessories

Item	Standard Tier	Heavy Compute Tier
Monitor	2× 27" Dell Pro FHD (1080p)	2× 27" Dell Pro UltraSharp 4K
Monitor (Mac alt.)	—	Apple Studio Display (with approval)
Keyboard	Dell wired keyboard	Dell wireless keyboard
Mouse	Dell wired mouse	Dell wireless mouse
Webcam	Included (tower/desktop users)	Included (tower/desktop users)
Dock	Dell Thunderbolt Dock (laptop users)	Dell Thunderbolt Dock (laptop users)

All accessories are provided as part of your standard equipment allocation — no separate request needed.

Standard Software Packages

Your computer comes ready to work on day one. Here's what's pre-installed.

Productivity Apps

Microsoft 365	Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.
Microsoft Teams	Messaging & video calls
Zoom	Video conferencing
OneDrive & Box	Cloud file storage
Claude Cowork	Official UChicago AI partner
Citrix	Access to clinical apps

Security & Management

CrowdStrike Falcon	Antivirus & malware protection
CrashPlan	Automatic backup of your files
Cisco Secure Client	VPN for working off-campus
BigFix (PC)	Keeps your software up to date
Jamf Pro (Mac)	Mac device management
Self-Service (Mac)	Install optional approved apps

How to Request Equipment

1

Get Approval

Talk to your department head or the person with purchasing authority. They — not BSDIS — must approve the request.

2

Contact BSDIS

Once approved, reach out to BSDIS. We'll help you pick the right equipment from our standard options.

3

We Place the Order

BSDIS orders through our agreements with Dell and CDW. We handle all purchasing on your behalf.

4

21-Day Lead Time

From request to deployment takes about 21 business days — covering ordering, delivery, setup, and handoff to you.

Remember: **Non-standard requests will impact lead times.**

Our Preferred Vendors

The University has established purchasing agreements with Dell and Apple (via CDW) based on educational pricing discounts, enhanced warranties, and proven track records in higher education environments.

Dell Technologies

Dell Technologies is a global leader in enterprise computing, providing business-class laptops, desktops, and workstations trusted by universities and research institutions worldwide.

WHY DELL

- Educational pricing through University purchasing agreement
- 4-year warranty standard on all BSDIS orders (Basic or ProPlus, depending on quote source)
- On-site service and next-business-day support available
- Wide range of form factors — laptop, tower, and workstation

Apple & CDW

Apple designs premium, high-performance computing hardware widely used in research, medicine, and creative fields. CDW is BSDIS's authorized Apple reseller, providing institutional pricing and warranty bundling.

WHY APPLE + CDW

- Educational pricing and AppleCare+ for Schools bundled via CDW
- 4-year AppleCare+ for Schools required by University policy included
- Apple Silicon delivers industry-leading performance and battery life
- Preferred by faculty and researchers in life sciences and medicine

Other vendors may be considered depending on business needs. Please speak with BSDIS before requesting non-preferred vendor hardware.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Questions?

We're here to help you get the right equipment & ready to go.

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