

Hardware Recommendations

for students enrolled in the media program at Hyles-Anderson College.

Disclaimer: This reflects the personal opinions of our media faculty after several incoming freshmen requested some advice. This is not an official endorsement by Hyles-Anderson College. Please note, the guidance will change as technology develops. That is simply the nature of the industry.

Also, the guidance will differ depending on your personal situation. If you dabble in short videos and photography, you may find the minimum suggestions below will suffice. If you plan to produce large video projects, render 4k videos, or render a lot of motion graphics, you may want to look for a machine with higher-end specs.

- This is not something you need to purchase right away your freshman year. You will not need this “horsepower” until at least your sophomore year when you start taking media classes. At that point, you don’t want hardware that freezes constantly to be a major hindrance to your academic experience.
- Whatever your budget allows, get technology as new as possible.
- Apple vs. PC: Nope, we’re not starting WWII. Apple is known for handling graphics and video well, but you’re also paying for the brand. Generally, they can be more expensive than PCs. PCs are more easily upgraded because you don’t have to use a certified dealer like Apple. If you ask enthusiasts of either brand, they will all have very strong, differing opinions.

Using Adobe’s required specs and our own experience, we recommend the following:

Solid-state hard drive (SSD): 512GB minimum (M.2 or newer is ideal)

RAM: 16GB minimum

GPU VRAM: 2GB minimum, but 4GB is better

Processor: I7 is recommended

Additional Tips:

- Black Friday/Cyber Monday may be a good time to snag a deal.
- A solid-state external hard drive (we use and highly recommend the [Samsung T7](#)) to store media project files will prolong the speed of your laptop.

Questions? Email justin.zarsky@hylesanderson.edu or joel.barnes@hylesanderson.edu.

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Here are links to a few models:

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/shop/gaming-laptops/g15-gaming-laptop/spd/g-series-15-5520-laptop/gn-5520fkhxs>

<https://www.apple.com/shop/buy-mac/macbook-air/midnight-apple-m2-chip-with-8-core-cpu-and-8-core-gpu-256gb>