

# COMPUTER HARDWARE & SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS (MACINTOSH)

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Since the degrees offered through the Department of Communication are entirely on-line, students must not only demonstrate a certain degree of computer literacy but meet certain minimum computer hardware/software standards as well. The following are minimum system components that work best with current SAU information systems.

## Hardware and Software Requirements (MACINTOSH PLATFORMS)

### Processor

G3 or G4

### Memory (RAM) (Minimum: 64 Megabytes (MB) of RAM)

Applications are becoming more and more memory-intensive. 32 MB is a minimum if you want to work effectively with OS 8. Don't buy less than 32 MB, and buy more if you are doing intensive graphics work with PageMaker or PhotoShop.

### Hard Disk (At least 1.2 Gigabytes (GB); Recommended: 2 Gigabytes)

Popular software packages require a great deal of disk space, so buy at least 1.2 GB. Hard disk space is now very inexpensive; purchasing a smaller disk (810 MB for example) will only save you \$100 or so.

### CD-ROM (Current Standard: 8X or 12X)

Built-in CD-ROMs are standard now on new machines. Most software is now distributed via CD, which makes for easy installation. There are thousands of information and entertainment software packages available only on CD. Finally, you can play music CDs on your computer while you work (don't underestimate how nice this is!).

### Sound Card/Speakers (Sound: built-in; Speakers: external)

Sound has been built into most Macs for a while, but the internal speakers are rather poor. Audio is becoming an important part of Internet communications, and there are practical applications for this in conservation work. You should purchase an inexpensive pair of speakers (under \$50) to take advantage of this capability.

### Monitor (Minimum: 15" SVGA color; Recommended: 17" SVGA color)

As with a television, computer monitors are measured by their diagonal width. The larger the size, the more viewing area you have (and the easier it is on your eyes). 15" monitors are the minimum; a 17" monitor can be purchased for approx. \$250-300 more, and is well worth the extra money.

### Graphics Memory

2 MB RAM on the Video Card

### Saving and Naming Files

The very nature of the on-line programs at SAU requires the sharing of documents and information among fellow learners and faculty mentors. To facilitate this process and reduce the frustration of receiving and sending documents, students should note several things.

First, document sharing may be accomplished among various word processor programs. All SAU online faculty use Microsoft Word for word processing. Students will need to send files in the current Word format. As of June 2001, faculty use Word 98.

Second, Windows 95, 98, NT4.0 and Macintosh operating systems allow long names. Since you and the faculty work on multiple courses and multiple projects it is best to name your file so everyone recognizes it. Begin the name with the three-digit course number. Follow this with your last name. After your name a one or two word description of the document. For example if your name is John Smith and you are sending in the final paper for COM600 then you would name the file: 601smithethics. Individual course syllabi will provide further details regarding naming files.

### General Comments

A short course at a local community college or public library on the Internet, personal computer basics, or other computer areas will build confidence and facilitate successful completion of the program at SAU.

Please contact SAU if any questions arise concerning hardware, software, or telecommunication needs and requirements. However, any technical questions concerning hardware, software, or telecommunication support should be directed to the applicable vendor.