

What to Bring to College: Tech Edition

Welcome to Bryn Mawr College! We look forward to getting to know you. As you prepare to enter College, we thought we might provide a few helpful guidelines on what to bring (and what to leave home).

Discounts and links to further information can be found at <http://techdocs.blogs.brynmawr.edu/6678>.

LAPTOP

Your computer is an investment that will serve your academic needs throughout your time in college. Bryn Mawr students may elect to use either Apple or Windows computers. Based on our knowledge of student needs and experiences, we have provided some recommendations for what will get you through your four years here.

Windows	Apple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for a solid, well-constructed computer • Windows 10 • Memory: 8GB or greater (16GB preferred) • Hard Drive: 256GB SSD (or larger) • Display: 12.5"-15.5" • Intel i5, or i7, processor • Extended Warranty (4 years with accidental damage and onsite service is recommended when available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MacBook Pro 13" or 15" • OS X 10.11 or later • Memory: 8GB or greater (16GB preferred) • Hard Drive: 256 GB SSD (or larger) • Intel i5 or i7 processor • Applecare + Protection (Note: Apple only offers 3 years of extended coverage with no on-site option. Apple stores are conveniently located in Ardmore and King of Prussia.)

Notes:

- Pay attention to the size and weight of the laptop. It needs to be both comfortable to use and transportable.
- Tablets/ultralight laptops with ultra-low voltage (sometimes "Y") processors may not perform well, it may depend on your program and software needs.
- Recommendations above are based on having the same computer for 4 years based on the experience of current and recent students. The most inexpensive laptops may not perform well for you and/or may need more frequent replacement, depending on durability and the demands of your academic program.
- A tablet (iPad, etc.) does not completely replace a laptop for most students.
- Chromebooks are inexpensive, but limited in software capabilities. A Chromebook may not meet all of a student's needs.
- Desktops are not recommended.
- Trying a computer in person, paying special attention to the keyboard and display, is always recommended.
- Certain operating systems are **not supported** on campus because they no longer receive security updates. These include: Windows 8, or older, OS X 10.11 or older.

SOFTWARE

- Microsoft Office and antivirus (Macs too!) is available free of charge for personal computers and mobile devices once you have access to your Bryn Mawr College email, see <http://techdocs.blogs.brynmawr.edu/6678>.
- Google Docs and iWork are used by some students, and good for casual use, but are typically insufficient for advanced research writing.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

Library & Information Technology Services

WHAT NOT TO BRING

You are entering a dense residential environment; devices which work fine at home cause interference and connectivity issues in the residences and are **not permitted**:

- Wireless printers (including AirPrint/ePrint models)
- Personal hotspots (cell phone hotspots, Mi-Fi)
- Wireless access points, routers, base stations
- Any device using [Wi-Fi Direct](#)
- Apple TimeCapsule or other wireless Hard Drive/Backup device
- Many home automation technologies such as "smart" light-bulbs, speakers, heaters, and other app-controlled devices
- Any device advertised as using 2.4ghz or 5ghz wireless
- Any device that broadcasts its own network name

OTHER ESSENTIALS

- Comfortable case or backpack
- We provide 1TB cloud storage on OneDrive. If you have a large music or video collection, you may want an additional online service or an external hard drive.
- Spare power adapter and/or battery
- Wireless mouse
- **All system information, license codes, proof of warranty or service plan, etc. which came with your computer or any software you purchased.**

SMARTPHONES, E-READERS, AND MOBILE DEVICES

While you certainly don't need to bring any of these to College with you, we see more of them each year. Some of these are more compatible with our systems than others; here are a few suggestions:

- **Smartphones and Tablets:** Apple iPhones and iPads, and most Android devices will work well with our wireless network and Office 365, provided they have the latest software updates installed. Android devices vary widely and some are incompatible or difficult to set up. We recommend purchasing an Accidental Damage Protection plan if available.
- **E-readers:** E-readers with WPA2-Enterprise wireless compatibility (such as, Kindle Paperwhite, Voyage, and newer) can often connect to our secure wireless network (eduroam).

THINGS TO NOTE

- Game consoles, smart speakers/personal assistants (Google Home, Amazon Echo), and media streaming devices (AppleTV, Roku, etc.) are not recommended, as many cannot properly connect to wireless. If the device has wireless capability, is compatible with WPA-2 Enterprise, and does not have any function which interferes with others or otherwise violates the Acceptable Use Policy (<https://www.brynmawr.edu/lits/about/policies/acceptable-use-policy>), you may connect it. We cannot advise or assist in hooking these up and quality for internet gaming or streaming is not guaranteed.
- While you **should** buy a manufacturer extended warranty, assistance is available if you have a problem with your personal computer while at Bryn Mawr. For information on these services, see <https://td.brynmawr.edu/TDClient/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=261>.
- Wireless is available in residential halls, throughout campus buildings, and in popular outdoor areas. Wired connections are not available.