

2009-2010 SOC LAPTOP COMPUTER SPECS

Interactive Journalism Program

Last updated June 22, 2009

To all students in the incoming Interactive Journalism weekend Master's program: The following purchasing list represents the minimum requirements for students entering SOC for the 2009-2010 academic school year. Students may wish to purchase faster or larger computers or peripherals depending on individual interests, skills and budgets.

If you find that you have questions about any of the specific requirements, please call the SOC Techline at 202-885-3570. Please tell the person answering the phone that you are an incoming Interactive Journalism student and that you are calling about Tech requirements. The Techline support folks are planning to respond to inquiries from Incoming IJ students within two business hours.

We also recommend that you consider purchasing the required hardware and software apps from store.apple.com - go to "education store" and then "select a college" and put in our zip code, 20016. Or you can visit academicsuperstore.com. Prices we quoted were those as of June 2009. Don't be alarmed if they are not the exact prices you see.

If you are new to this type of technology, don't worry. You don't have to know how to use it, just what to purchase and what it is used for. Our Techline staffers are very nice and are happy to answer questions.

Equipment

Required laptop (1)

SOC recommends the 15" MacBook Pro - 2.53GHz (MSRP about \$1600; Manufacturer's part# MC118LL/A). It comes loaded with the minimum specs you will need. If you don't buy a new computer, then make sure yours has 2 gigabytes of RAM.

If you are not purchasing a new computer, the bare minimum computer specs for your existing computer is a 2.25Hz MacBook Pro with 2GB of RAM.

Any MacBook Pro purchased in the last year will have the right processor and video card. It is easy to determine if the computer is a MacBook vs. a MacBook Pro. RAM upgrades are available and affordable through MacUpgrades in Bethesda, Md.

2. Required Peripherals (2)

1. 4-16 GB Flash Memory thumb drive

2. External Hard Drive. We recommend the LaCie Rugged 500GB External FireWire 800 / FireWire 400 & Hi-Speed USB 2.0 Hard Disk Drive (MSRP: \$199.00; Mfr. Part #: 301371).

OR students can purchase an equivalent 7200 RPM (that pertains to speed) external firewire drive 250 GB or larger (this pertains to size). There are several on the market. For video editing, the external hard drives must be firewire capable.



3. Required Software Applications (4)

- a. **iLife '09** (comes free with a new MacBook Pro)
- b. **iWork** (\$49) or Open Office (free)
- c. **Soundslides Plus** (\$69.95) <http://store.soundslides.com/products/>
- d. **Final Cut Express** (\$179)

4. Required Adobe Creative Suite

Good news. This will be provided by SOC.

In addition, digital reporters should always carry portable video and audio recorders. You may already own gear similar to the products listed below. Students in the IJ program do not have to have these items for the first class. We recommend you purchase them, if possible, by November for your second class (NOT required) or by the third class.

Flash Camcorder (pick one)

- Flip Ultra HD Camcorder (\$200)
- Kodak Zi6 HD Pocket Video Camera (\$180)
- Sony Webbie HD Camera MHS-PM1 (\$170)
- Sony Webbie HD Camera MHS-CM1 (\$200)

Digital Audio Recorder (pick one)

- Edirol R-09 WAVE/MP3 Recorder, Black (\$350-450)
- Zoom H2 - (\$129 - \$150) Zoom H4 – (\$310)
- Olympus LS-10 Linear PCM Recorder (\$240-399)
- Olympus WS-321M Digital Voice Recorder (\$90)
- Olympus WS400S (\$80)
- Olympus WS-311M Digital Voice Recorder (\$70)

Microphone

- Olympus ME-15 Lav Microphone (\$30)

Some other places to buy digital and audio equipment

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/>
 B & H Photo : <http://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

