

2010-2011 SOC LAPTOP COMPUTER SPECS

Interactive Journalism Program

Last updated June 21, 2010

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 2010-2011 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 Apple at www.apple.com/edu/ausoc where you will find pricing and offers for SOC students. Or you can visit academicsuperstore.com. Prices we quoted were those as of June 2010. 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 - our Techline staff is very nice and are happy to answer questions.

There is one additional expense to those below. IJ students must register their own domain names and host their own Web sites as part of this program. We recommend that students sign up for web hosting with bluehost.com. Currently (June 2010) pricing is listed for \$6.95 a month for web hosting, which includes a domain name registration in the price of a 24-month contract.

Equipment

Required laptop (1)

SOC recommends either the 15" or 17" MacBook Pro with the following configuration:

- 2.66 GHz Intel Core i7 Processor
- 500 GB 7200 RPM Hard Drive
- 8GB RAM
- NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M Video Card
- AppleCare Protection Plan

The educational discount prices from Apple (as of June) range from \$2643 for the 15-inch to \$2923 for the 17-inch. The decision will be yours, likely based on your preference for portability vs. comfort.

If you are not purchasing a new computer, the bare minimum computer specs for your existing computer is a 2.5 GHz MacBook Pro with 4GB 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. External Hard Drive. We recommend the LaCie Rugged 500GB External FireWire 800 / FireWire 400 & Hi-Speed USB 2.0 Hard Disk Drive (MSRP: \$159.00; Mfr. Part #: 301371).

OR students can purchase an equivalent 7200 RPM (that pertains to speed) external Firewire drive 320 GB or larger (this pertains to size). There are several on the market. For video editing, the external hard drives must be Firewire capable.

2. Required Software Applications (4)

a. **iLife** (comes free with a new MacBook Pro)

b. **iWorks** (\$71) or Open Office (free)

3. Software Provided by SOC

1. Adobe Creative Suite Design Premium Edition
2. Apple Final Cut Express

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 Memory USB thumb drive : 4 – 16 GB

Flash Camcorder – We recommend you **not** buy this immediately because models may change before you need it later in the program.

Kodak Zi8 (\$150 - \$180)

Digital Audio Recorder (pick one)

Edirol R-09 Wave/MP3 Recorder (\$350-\$450)

Zoom H2 - (\$145)

Zoom H4n – (\$300)

Microphone

Lavaliere microphone: Olympus ME-15 Lav Microphone (\$30)

This is recommended but **not required** :

Hand-held microphone: Electro-Voice 635A (\$100)

Some other places to buy digital and audio equipment

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/>

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