

Students: What tech to bring to College

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The intended audience for this article is **new and returning students**. Faculty and staff should consult the [LITS Help Desk](#) for advice.

See also:

- [Laptop Purchasing Guide](#)
- [Remote Learning, Teaching, and Work: Suggested Computer Accessories](#)

Personal laptops

Many students find a personal laptop to be very useful in college; see the [Laptop Purchasing Guide](#) for more. For questions regarding specific requirements, please contact the department of your major or intended major.

Mobile devices

While not required, mobile devices can be helpful for **note taking**, **digital textbooks**, or as a **two-factor authentication device**. Compatibility with [our wireless network](#) is usually the most important factor.

- **Smartphones:** most up-to-date Apple & Android devices will work
- **Tablets:** most Apple and Android tablets will work, provided they have the most recent updates installed
- **E-readers:** newer E-readers (e.g., Kindle Paperwhite, Nook GlowLight, Remarkable 2, etc.) should work

Other essentials

- **Laptop protection:** a padded sleeve/case or dedicated backpack compartment. The most common place we see laptops be damaged is in backpacks!
- **Data backup solution:** an external storage drive or online cloud service
- **Documentation:** any system info, license keys, proof of warranty/service plan, etc.

Optional accessories

- battery bank
- headset for online learning

Game consoles

Game consoles such as PlayStations and Nintendo Switches can't connect to the College's primary wireless network (eduroam), but they are supported on our [gaming Wi-Fi](#) network.

What NOT to bring

Unsupported devices

Any device **running an unsupported operating system**. This includes [Windows 7, 8, 10](#) and older or [MacOS 12 Monterey](#) and older, which no longer receive security updates and are **not permitted to connect** to the College's network.

Devices that broadcast

Any device that **may cause connectivity issues or interfere with other students' devices**. The following devices are **not permitted** to be set up on-campus:

- Wireless printers
- Personal Wi-Fi hotspots (including cellphone hotspots)
- Wireless access points or routers
- Wireless-based backup devices
- Home automation/smart home devices that broadcast a signal
- Any other device that broadcasts its own network name/SSID

Unsecure devices

Any device that **requires a wired network connection or does not support WPA-2 Enterprise**. These devices won't be able to connect to the College's network. Common examples are:

- Smart home speakers/assistants (e.g., Google Home or Amazon Echo)
- Media streaming devices (e.g., Roku, Chromecast, Fire Stick, and smart TVs)

Questions?

If you have any additional questions or problems, don't hesitate to reach out to the **Help Desk!**

Phone: 610-526-7440 | [Library and Help Desk hours](#) 

Email: help@brynmawr.edu | [Service catalog](#) 

Location: Canaday Library 1st floor
