

Dear Incoming Students:

I am writing to update you on the CU School of Medicine PDA requirement for incoming medical students.* **The PDA IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS ENTERING FALL 2008.** The Dell Axim PDA was recently discontinued by Dell. This was the recommended PDA for our students (based on quality and cost). For this reason, the PDA requirement for new first-year students has been **delayed for your class**. You will be required to purchase a device (such as a Smartphone) with **Windows Mobile operating system**, but **this requirement will NOT take place until your second year of medical school**. If you decide that you still want to buy a PDA then please continue to follow the technical standard listed below. If you purchase a PDA or Smartphone, please do not purchase medical software for it as you will have access to many products for free once you begin school. If you decide to purchase a Smartphone at this time, please be aware that the “web and data access “ portion of the cost is quite variable. If you are considering buying a Smartphone before the start of medical school, please contact IT support in the Educational Development and Research (ED&R) office (edrsupport@uchsc.edu) before purchasing.

Laptop Setup

You can opt to have your laptop delivered directly to and setup by the School of Medicine ED&R office prior to beginning school; this is strongly recommended so that you are sure to have all the necessary software installed, including the required anti-virus software.

If you want ED&R to setup your new laptop, have it delivered to the following address and email edrsupport@uchsc.edu to notify our IT support staff that the laptop will be shipped to ED&R. Please include your full name and contact information in the email.

University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine
ED&R – Computer Setup
13001 East 17th Place, Bldg. 500, Rm C1009
Aurora, CO 80045
re: [you must include your name]

Laptop Minimum Technical Standards (no change from the earlier announcement)

1.0 GHz Duo Core, or 1.4 GHz Pentium M processor
Windows XP sp2 Operating System (or better)

[Note* Windows Vista operating system recommendations: graphics processor that is DirectX 9 capable; 2 GB RAM]

80 GB Hard Drive;

DVD/ CDRW optical drive;

High-end graphics card;

Network Interface Card

802.11 g (or better) wireless card;

56 K Modem

1 GB RAM;

Suggested 15 GB of free space on the Hard Drive

Recommend: 3-4 Year warranty **and** Accidental Damage protection, additional batteries

PDA NOT REQUIRED FOR FIRST YEAR

Minimum PDA Technical Standards (if purchased)

Microsoft® Windows Mobile™ 5.0 operating system; Intel 624MHz;

256MBROM; 64MB SDRAM

3.7 inch VGA; Integrated Wi-Fi (802.11b)

Recommend: 3-Year Warranty **and** total protection package, travel cable, additional batteries, memory card

Laptop FAQ

- **Can I have a Mac instead of a Windows laptop?** The School of Medicine does not provide technical support for Mac computers.
- **What if I have a relatively new laptop that is close to the minimum standards, do I still need to buy a new laptop?** If you have a laptop with the Windows XP sp2 Operating System, a DVD/ CDRW drive, 802.11 g (or better) wireless connection, network card, 512 MB of RAM and 50 GB or better hard drive space you should be fine. If you later feel that your laptop is not sufficient for your school work then you will need to buy a new laptop at that time.
- **Will there be special pricing for laptops?** Yes, you can link to our special pricing deals with Dell, Gateway, and Lenovo here: http://www.uchsc.edu/som/edr/tech_vendors.html
- **What if I don't know how to setup a laptop?** Have your new laptop shipped directly to the ED&R office for setup prior to starting school (see instructions and address above).

PDA FAQ

- **Can I get a Smartphone (combination cell phone and PDA) instead of a PDA?** Smartphones have the advantage that you only need to carry one device. However, you should be aware that there are significant monthly charges for using the web and data (e.g., email) access aspect of a Smartphone and the service plans usually require a two-year contract. For example, both Cingular and Verizon charge \$40/month in addition to regular cell phone charges for data transfer. Sprint and TMobile have data transfer plans from \$15-\$25/month. Unless you are going to sign-up for a new cell phone contract at this time anyway, we recommend not purchasing a Smartphone and the required service plan until your second year of medical school. If you do want to purchase a Smartphone now, it must use the **Windows Mobile™ 5.0 operating system (or better)**. Please contact ED&R if you have questions about Smartphones.
- **What if I have a Mac, can I sync a Windows Mobile PDA or Smartphone to it?** The School is not providing laptop support for Mac computers; however we want you to get the most use out of your PDA or Smartphone if you decide to purchase one. Microsoft® Windows Mobile™ PDAs do not automatically sync with a Mac. There may be an option for those people who have Macintosh computers (Mac OS X and/or Intel processor), however this has not been tested by ED&R. We can not endorse any products at this time. Even if you have a Mac, we are still recommending a Microsoft® Windows Mobile™ PDA or Smartphone if you decide to purchase one, given the technical requirements of the student Learning Log (required of all medical students).

Questions regarding any of the IT requirements can be directed to edrsupport@uchsc.edu.

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