



SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Welcome to the SUNY Poly College of Engineering! The Network and Computer Security program requires that students come equipped with a laptop computer to be used for a variety of cybersecurity coursework. This laptop is expected to be usable for the duration of the program, and many of your NCS courses will require that you bring this computer to class for hands-on sessions. In addition to using the host operating system, you, with your fellow students, will be configuring and running multiple virtual machines to be used in the NCS curriculum.

Because this is an academic requirement, it is possible to receive financial aid to cover the cost of the laptop, primarily through additional loans. Please note that it will be important for you to save all receipts associated with the purchase of the laptop as this will be required information for the Financial Aid Office. Please consult with the Financial Aid Office, if you have any questions.

The **minimum** specifications for PC laptops are:

- Windows or Mac operating system
- Audio Card: no specifications
- RAM: 16GB
- Solid State Hard Drive: 250GB
- 1 TB recommended for at least an i7 class processor
- Screen size: 15"
- High-quality hardware is recommended.

Wi-Fi wireless networking is required. USB ports are required, and can be provided via external adaptor if needed. Ethernet ports are not required, but access via an external adaptor is recommended. No particular specification for sound card or graphics card is required. These laptop specifications will provide students with a machine that is powerful enough to do their work through all four years of college and still be a good machine when they graduate.

Software requirements include Microsoft Office (Office 365 is free for students – see <https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education>). The VMWare virtualization platform will be used, and SUNY Poly has a VMWare site license available to students that includes VMWare Workstation for Windows and Fusion for Mac. For virtualization needs prior to arriving at SUNY Poly, students can install and use VirtualBox.

If an Apple laptop is used, the Parallels software to run Windows is available at a discount, and a Windows license will be available to students through SUNY Poly's site licenses.

If you have any questions about the laptop, please feel free to contact me at mcarpenter@sunypoly.edu. I look forward to seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Carpenter".

Michael A. Carpenter, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, College of Engineering