



DONALD AND BARBARA  
ZUCKER SCHOOL of MEDICINE  
AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL

### Student Laptop Requirements AY 26-27

Feature	Minimum Requirements	Preferred	Reasoning
General	Windows PC laptop or MacBook (Air/Pro)  Recommended: device $\leq$ 3 years old (at time of use).		<b>Not supported for exam use:</b> Chromebooks, Android, Linux; tablets/detachable-keyboard devices as primary. <b>No virtual desktops/VDI/VMs</b>  Please be sure you have a compliant device for exam use when needed.
Operating System	Windows 11 Professional, Home, Enterprise, or Education (64-bit Version only)  macOS Sequoia (15.0) or later	Windows 11 Professional, Home, Enterprise, or Education (64-bit Version only)  macOS Tahoe (26.0) or later	Only genuine versions of Mac and Windows (64-bit) operating systems are supported.  Window 10 (or older) and macOS 11 (Big Sur) or older is no longer supported by select software developers. Support for Windows 10 has ended on October 14, 2025.  Updates for curricular software applications will be available for the supported operating system versions only. Use of virtual desktop environments for exams is not permitted.
Screen Size	13" or larger		The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) requires a minimum of 13" monitor for online NBME exams. Screen Resolution should be <b>at least 1024x768 or higher.</b>
Processor	Windows: Intel Core i5 (12th gen) or better;	Windows: Intel i7 Core or AMD Ryzen 7 or better;	

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	Mac: Apple M1 or better	Mac: Apple <b>M2/M3/M4-class</b> (or better)	
Memory	16 GB RAM or higher (upgradable to 32 GB)	32 GB RAM or higher	
Hard Drive	512 GB SSD or more	1TB SSD or more	Almost all curricular materials are online. Some courses use multimedia content or high-resolution images, which greatly increase storage needs.
Browser	Latest versions of Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome; Firefox  Safari 17+ or higher		Updated browser versions are required to meet the minimum requirements of web-based test systems.
Screen Sharing	Consider models with built-in HDMI or USB-C ports		Select classroom and meeting spaces within the building will support HDMI connections to enable wireless screen-sharing from personal laptops.
Wireless Capability	802.11ac Wi-Fi/wireless (802.11a/b/g/n compatible)		The entire building and campus are wireless. Hard-wired internet ports are not available in classrooms or educational theatres.
Warranty	3-year parts and labor or Apple Care		Extended coverage ensures extended warranty, timely support, and protection against unexpected repair costs.
External Storage	Cloud or personal USB external hard drive		Safeguarding locally stored laptop data is crucial. Easy-to-use solutions like iCloud, Dropbox, OneDrive, and Google Drive provide backup options.
USB Ports	At least one working USB-A port or USB-C port adapter for UBS-A. Newer MacBook devices will require purchase of a USB-C to USB adapter.		Recommended to troubleshoot software related issues and to transfer files when needed.
Audio	Integrated microphone/speakers		Most laptops come with an integrated microphone, and this is highly recommended with web-conferencing software for virtual meetings.
Video	Integrated web camera or external web camera		The availability of a video camera is required for web-based video conferencing meetings/webinars for class learning session or other related meetings.

*Last Updated: March 2026*