GGC-SST-IT Student Laptop Program

This presents information about the IT Laptop Program for Junior and Senior ITEC students of the School of Science and Technology. It contains details regarding system requirements, catalog and syllabus paragraph inclusions, some initial frequently asked questions, and some assumptions related to this program.
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GGC IT Student Laptop Program

Background:
Since its inception in 2005, the visionaries of GGC determined that incorporating emerging technologies into the fabric of our college would be a core component of GGC’s success. The School of Science and Technology (SST), with is numerous and various Information Technology courses, labs, and initiatives played a key role in the implementation of this vision. Five years and several thousand students later, this vision culminated in the establishment of an extended foundational component: The SST ITEC Junior/Senior Student Laptop Program.

With the proliferation of our IT tracks and courses, the continuing technological diversities, and the decline in costs of technology, our GGC visionary leadership further determined the need to put networked laptop computers into the hands of our SST-ITEC Junior and Senior Students on a routine basis.

The impetus behind this program is based on economic arguments, equity concerns, and widespread interest in education reform. Several studies of laptop programs in schools report that they increase students' engagement in school, improve technology skills, and have positive effects on students' writing. Research suggests that laptop programs will be most successful as part of balanced, comprehensive initiatives that address changes in education goals, curricula, instructor training, and assessment.

Objectives:

1. System Requirements
The following System Requirements are based on the collection and analysis of technology needs for the SST ITEC Faculty teaching 3000 and 4000 ITEC Level courses. We asked our IT Faculty, who teach junior and senior level courses, to provide us with any specific SW and HW needs and/or configurations they currently use or plan to use in their courses for the next 2 years. We asked for specific SW/HW/Peripherals needs and specifications. Most of the feedback came in terms of specific software (both system and application software).

The ITEC Faculty Feedback is attached in Appendix A.

Windows Laptop

1 The collection of needs from ITEC faculty was NOT intended for the procurement of software.
Hardware

- Operating System: Windows XP (Windows 7 preferred)
- CPU: Intel Core i3 (2.0GHz) or above (2.5 GHz preferred)
- Main memory: 4GB RAM
- Secondary storage(HDD): 250GB (500 GB preferred if using laptop for music, photos, video)
- Integrated Intel HD Graphics (ATI Radeon preferred for graphics intensive usage)
- CD/DVD Burner
- Wi-Fi Compatible
- Additional power cable recommended

Software

- MS Office 2010 (available beginning Fall 2011 at the Circulation Desk in the B building Information Commons area)
- Virus Protection MUST be current!

Apple MacBook Pro²

Hardware

- MacBook Pro 2.3 GHz i5 Processor
- 4 GB RAM
- 320 GB HD (500 GB preferred if using laptop for music, photos, video)
- Integrated Intel HD Graphics (ATI Radeon preferred for graphics intensive usage)

Software

- MS Office 2011 (available beginning Fall 2011 at the Circulation Desk in the B building Information Commons area)

2. AY11-12 Catalog Inclusion

We recommend the following paragraphs of text to be included, in the appropriate locations, in the AY11-12 Catalog indicating the laptop requirement for IT majors:

“All Information Technology students in their Junior and Senior years at GGC are required to purchase (or possess) a laptop

² NOTE: MacBook Air does NOT meet the minimum specifications!
computer and specific software bundle identified by the School of Science and Technology.

Additional information regarding the IT Laptop Program’s hardware, software, and networking requirements can be found at www.ggc.edu/sst/itlaptop.html. Additional requirements may be needed for some courses. In this event, GGC will provide the necessary computing environment on campus to support these initiatives.

Any non-IT major students who are taking ITEC 3000-4000 level courses are expected participate in this program and have the IT Laptop purchased.

All IT Junior and Senior students are expected to purchase the specified laptop and the required software bundle by the start of classes.”

3. Syllabus Inclusion
In addition to the inclusion of the AY11-12 Catalog entry, we recommend the following paragraphs of text to be included, in the appropriate locations, in all ITEC 3000 and 4000 Level Syllabi indicating the laptop requirement for IT majors:

“GGC has initiated a laptop requirement program for all juniors and seniors with technology majors. Additional information on the program, including system requirements, can be found at www.ggc.edu/sst/itlaptop.html.

IF THE COURSE REQUIRES ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS, THEN THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE ADDED:

Additional requirements for this course include the following:

List of requirements

If you do not have these resources available on your own, GGC will provide the necessary computing environment on campus to support these initiatives.
Students who have not attained junior level status but are taking ITEC 3000-4000 level courses are expected have the IT Laptop purchased.

Any non-IT major students who are taking ITEC 3000-4000 level courses are expected participate in this program and have the IT Laptop purchased.

All students are expected to purchase the recommended laptop and the required software bundle by the start of this class.”

4. Frequently Asked Questions
Since this initiative is still in its infant stages and some questions and/or assumptions remain subject to discussion and approval, we opted to list a minimum set of FAQ’s for now. As the program matures, more FAQ’s will be added to this list.

1. Which IT students are eligible for GGC support with buying a laptop for educational purposes?
Answer:

GGC provides all IT students with a set of recommendations about the technical requirements for their laptop for GGC educational purposes. In some cases, junior and senior GGC IT students may be eligible to use their financial aid to buy a laptop for their educational purposes.

2. Am I eligible for financial aid to buy a laptop for my educational purposes if I am a junior (senior) GGC IT student?
Answer:

If the student is on financial aid, then there are two options that would allow financial aid to help the student: a) the student can use his/her financial aid refund to buy it; and b) if the student has already used his/her "cost of attendance" budget up, s/he is allowed to increase it once during the student's entire college career to purchase a computer (in this case the student will need to provide financial aid with a receipt).

3. Do I need to have my own laptop for all GGC IT courses at junior and senior levels?
Answer:
Information about it can be found in the appropriate sections of GGC course catalog and in the syllabi of the specific IT courses. You may clarify this question with the professor of your IT course.

4. What kind of application software do I need to have on my laptop?

Answer:

Some general information about a set of minimum application software that you need to have on your laptop for GGC IT educational purposes can be found within the published recommendations. At the same time because of potential specific purposes of your IT course, a professor of the course can include in the course syllabus some extra application software that will be used for specific educational purposes.

5. I have heard that some IT courses require using only a Mac laptop. Is it true?

Answer:

As a general rule IT course professors will not include in the syllabus a strong requirement for all students enrolled in the course to have a Mac laptop only. At the same time some IT courses can require using Mac computers in a particular course (Operating Systems course, for example) or a whole IT track (a new multimedia specialization at SS&T IT program). In this case the college will provide a special classroom(s) with a set of Mac computers.

6. Where can I get more information about this program?

Answer:

Detailed description of this program can be found at [www.ggc.edu/itlaptop](http://www.ggc.edu/itlaptop).

7. How can I ask additional questions about this program?

Answer:

Please send an email to: [askitlaptop@ggc.edu](mailto:askitlaptop@ggc.edu).