

# Student Laptop Buying Guide

## Basic Laptops for Everyday Use

These would be ideal machines if you only plan on surfing the internet, streaming videos, creating documents or presentations with Office suite, and checking email and social media. Remember the Tech terms we reviewed? This list strives for a balance of price to performance, but it is not exhaustive and simply meant as guide to help show something comparable to what you should be looking for. So If you want to go a different route than what's shown, keep in mind these specs:

- ✓ OS - Windows or macOS
- ✓ CPU - Intel i5 or Ryzen 5
- ✓ SSD - 256GB or higher
- ✓ RAM - 8GB or higher

## HP Pavilion Plus 14



- ✓ OS - Windows 11
- ✓ CPU - Intel i5
- ✓ SSD - 256GB
- ✓ RAM - 8GB
- ✓ Price as configured - \$799

This is what you could call a true everyday, no frills laptop. It has a solid processor, but slightly lower amounts of RAM and SSD space. However, it does contain a few more ports than the slimmer HP x360. This would be a great option for the student just looking for a simple no fuss computer, with fewer components that could break.

## HP Pavilion x360 Convertible



- ✓ OS - Windows 11
- ✓ CPU - Intel i5
- ✓ SSD - 512GB
- ✓ RAM - 16GB
- ✓ Price as configured - \$899

This laptop represents a great collab of both features and performance. You can configure the model to your specific needs or budget, but at \$899 for the hardware listed above, this is a great bargain. This laptop also has a 14 inch touch screen that flips completely around for a tablet like experience, as well as useful ports such as HDMI and USB-C. HP also frequently has sales and student deals.

## HP Omen 16



- ✓ OS - Windows 11
- ✓ CPU - Intel i5
- ✓ GPU - GTX 1650
- ✓ SSD - 512GB
- ✓ RAM - 8GB
- ✓ Price as configured - \$899

This laptop manages an impressive combination - a dedicated GPU and a modest price. The HP Omen has average hardware with the exception of its dedicated graphics card which would make it a great affordable option for students doing more software intensive courses, or who have an interest in gaming in their spare time. Keep in mind that this laptop is fairly large though with its 16 inch screen.

## Apple MacBook Air



- ✓ OS - macOS
- ✓ CPU - Apple M1
- ✓ SSD - 256GB
- ✓ RAM - 8GB
- ✓ Price as configured - \$899

This is the only sub \$1,000 option from Apple, and it delivers below average hardware for the price. If you absolutely must have macOS over something else though, this is your cheapest option. Apple does typically offer a student discount with a valid .edu email though.