

UC 12245 135



U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

*Approved as amended
on 4/24/13.
Effective fall 2014.*

January 17, 2013

To: Undergraduate Committee

RECEIVED JAN 17 2013

From: Engineering Executive Committee

Proposal as amended from the Engineering Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

RE: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LAPTOP OWNERSHIP PROPOSAL

Proposed Language for the Undergraduate Catalog:

Beginning in Fall ²⁰¹⁴ 2013, students entering any undergraduate program in the Cullen College of Engineering are required to have a laptop at their disposal. Some engineering instructors will require that students bring their laptops to class. The minimum and recommended specifications for engineering student laptops are defined under "Laptop Specifications" at www.egr.uh.edu/academics/admissions/specifications.

Justification for Proposal

- a) These laptops will be used to enhance student learning in engineering courses by increased interactivity and by enabling project-based learning using sophisticated software and hardware.
- b) Students will use these laptops for in-class learning, collaborating on group projects, delivering presentations, communication with faculty members and rapid Internet access for diverse purposes, especially information retrieval in support of learning.
- c) These laptops will enable instructors to extend the classroom learning environment seamlessly outside the classroom.

Impact on Students

There is informally collected evidence that most engineering students already own adequate laptops, so for those students the additional cost is expected to be negligible. After preliminary discussion with some laptop manufacturers, a minimal system is expected to cost \$500 or less and a preferred system \$700 or less, including necessary software at student-discount prices.

It is believed that such prices are within the range of anticipated expenses for most students (compared, for example, to smart phone ownership and related service cost). Nevertheless, in the spirit of minimizing student costs, some mitigation of the cost impact is necessary for some students. Please refer to the Cullen College of Engineering commitments below.

Best Practices of Other Universities

Other universities and colleges are already requiring laptops for their students.

<http://www.du.edu/uts/laptops/>

<http://www.uta.edu/architecture/resources/laptops/>

http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/laptop_initiative.cfm

<http://www.me.utexas.edu/laptopreq/>

2014

Commitment by the Cullen College of Engineering and University of Houston by Fall ~~2013~~

We recognize that requiring students to obtain access to laptops implies a commitment by the Cullen College of Engineering to leverage the student purchases effectively for the benefit of the students' learning experience. This commitment explicitly includes the following actions.

- Expand adequate classroom infrastructure for student use of laptops. Such infrastructure includes
 - Adequate desk space for the laptop, texts, and papers for taking notes
 - Sufficient physical space for team interactions
 - Network connectivity with sufficient capacity
 - Electrical power

- Mitigate the cost impact on students.
 - Include the laptop hardware and software costs in the books and supplies portion of student financial aid requests
 - Provide a pool of laptops for short-term, emergency loans, e.g., in case a student drops and breaks their laptop on the way to the laboratory
 - Solicit donors for "laptop scholarships" to be awarded in cases of demonstrated financial need

Dean's Signature: _____

David P. Shattuck

Date: 17 JAN 2013