MECH Computer and Calculator Recommendations

Future Students:

You made a wise choice to pursue Mechanical Engineering. We are excited about the new program.

I. **Computer**: Most, if not all, campus software is for PC, not Mac / Apple. Some of the students who use a Mac have had problems copying screenshots of the output and other information to turn in. They eventually did it, but they had issues doing so.

For Mechanical Engineering, we will run Matlab and a CAD program, SolidWorks.

Requirements for MatLab (1 GB RAM, 2GB recommended) can be found here: [http://www.mathworks.com/support/sysreq/current_release/index.html?sec=windows](http://www.mathworks.com/support/sysreq/current_release/index.html?sec=windows)

Requirements for Solidworks (2 GB RAM, 8 GB recommended) can be found here: [https://www.solidworks.com/sw/support/SystemRequirements.html](https://www.solidworks.com/sw/support/SystemRequirements.html)

I use a Mac at home, but a Windows PC for almost all my academic work. The Windows PC for academics will be a mainstay for a while.

Unfortunately, technology grows faster than we can afford, so I would recommend a system to last the four years in school – one with more than the minimum RAM, a larger hard drive, a decent processor (I5 or I7 or equivalent – Intel processor numbers, but AMD equivalents are just as good).

If you go with a Mac system, be sure to get the Parallels software to run Windows software on the Mac - I use this for my personal computer at home and it works. I have not tried Fusion.

Bottom line: Go with the PC - it will be around for a while.

II. **Calculator**: Go with any of the TI 36 models listed here on the Engineering Exam Calculator link: [http://ncees.org/exams/calculator-policy/](http://ncees.org/exams/calculator-policy/)

Some students like a higher end calculator like the TI 84/89. I like these but they are not required.

We look forward to your arrival at The Citadel and in the Mechanical Engineering program.

Robert J. Rabb, PhD, PE
Associate Professor/Program Director
Mechanical Engineering