

# 1 RECOMMENDATIONS RE: LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS 2026

## 1.1 Categories

Level	CPU / Processor	RAM	Storage	Graphics	Display / Screen	Other Important Features	Suitable For / Limits
1. Everyday / Entry-Level	Intel Core i3 (recent gen) or AMD Ryzen 3 (or equivalent low-power CPUs)	8 GB	256-512 GB SSD (NVMe if possible)	Integrated graphics	13-15.6", Full HD (1920×1080)	Decent battery life (6-8h+ real use), lightweight (≤~1.6-1.8 kg), USB-C & USB-A ports, WiFi 5/6	Ideal for basic tasks: Word / PDF/presentations, research/browsing, streaming, and note-taking. Not ideal for heavy multitasking, video editing, or demanding software applications.
2. Mid-Range / "All-Rounder."	Intel Core i5 / i5-"U", i5-H or Ryzen 5 series, or better; more cores / threads	16 GB	512 GB SSD (NVMe), possibly additional slot or external options	Either stronger integrated graphics, or optionally an entry-level discrete GPU (e.g., NVIDIA MX series or RTX 3050, etc.), depending on exact use	Still 13-16", Full HD or better, possibly IPS or OLED, better colour accuracy, anti-glare, good screen brightness	Better cooling/thermals, more ports (HDMI, USB-C with PD or DisplayPort, SD card or microSD for media), stronger battery (8-10h+), lighter (if possible), build quality (durability)	Good for heavier multitasking, some programming, light video/photo editing, moderate graphic work, and more demanding software used in 2nd/3rd year.
3. Heavy / Super-User	Intel Core i7 / i9, or AMD Ryzen 7 / Ryzen 9, possibly H-series CPUs; possibly workstation-class CPUs for special needs	16-32 GB (or more if in design, data science, etc.)	1 TB SSD (or more), NVMe; fast read/write, maybe dual drives (one for scratch/work)	Discrete GPU strongly recommended (e.g., NVIDIA RTX series, or AMD equivalent), especially for CAD, GPU-accelerated tasks, rendering,	Possibly 15.6-17" if needed; high resolution (QHD or 4K depending on field), good color gamut, high refresh rate if using for GPU work / visual tasks; good display brightness/viewing angles	Excellent cooling, high-quality keyboard & trackpad, premium build, heavier power adapter, good ports (USB-C / Thunderbolt if available, HDMI, etc.), ability to upgrade	For students pursuing engineering, architecture, film/media, 3D design, large data/simulations, GPU rendering, machine learning, serious video editing, gaming, and other related fields. Overkill

				and simulations		RAM/storage , strong battery is more challenging but still desirable; possibly lighter-weight models if doing frequent travel	for those who only use Office apps/web, etc., but provides "futureproofing" .
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