

**What type of computer should you bring to Wartburg College . . .**

## **Desktop or Laptop?**

As with many aspects of the college process, there is no "right" answer to the desktop vs. laptop debate. Each comes with significant advantages and disadvantages, and which is better will depend on the needs and preferences of the student.

### **Laptop Computer for College - Advantages**

- Takes up little dorm space or desk space.
- Can be carried to class or library for note-taking, study, etc.
- With a wireless card, can provide easy access to college network and Internet in many locations on campus. Newer laptop computers may have built-in wireless networking ability.
- Can be brought home during weekend or holiday visits.
- Can be more easily shipped to manufacturer or taken to dealer for service.

### **Laptop Computer for College - Disadvantages**

- Much more easily stolen, particularly if carried around campus.
- Typically have a smaller screen and keyboard.
- More easily dropped or broken.
- Somewhat more prone to failure than stationary desktop computers of comparable quality.
- More expensive for comparable speed and capacity.
- Limited expansion and add-on capabilities.
- Even the most lightweight models are an extra load to carry around all day.

### **Desktop Computer for College - Advantages**

- Best value: typically, more speed, memory, and storage for a lower price.
- Lower probability of failure.
- Multimedia options allow desktop to serve multiple purposes (computer, stereo, TV, DVD player, etc.)
- Difficult to steal.
- Relatively easy to expand or modify as needs change.
- Less costly expansion products such as large hard drives, additional memory, and special purpose cards.
- Flat screen LCD monitors are now reasonably priced, reducing desk space requirements and making storage/shipping easier.

### **Desktop Computer for College - Disadvantages**

- Takes up valuable real estate in cramped dorm rooms.
- Can't be carried to library or classes.
- Space-consuming and awkward to move to and from school.
- Difficult to ship if repair/replacement is needed.