

Managing School work with Technology

Getting Connected for College

Students entering college from high school this year can be assured of one thing: they are among the first of their generation to have had the benefit and experience of coming of age in a technologically immersive environment. While first-time college students (or adults returning to school) might think they know what they need, here's some advice culled from The New York Times' "Smarter Living" guide to back-to-school tech you need — and don't. Smart choices will lighten the load both physically and financially, and better prepare you for classes.

Invest in a Good Tablet

New students soon discover the hefty price tag (and not inconsiderable weight) of college textbooks. An exorbitant amount of money can be spent purchasing new and used textbooks required for classes. But the

burden can be lessened by investing in a good tablet. Renting textbooks as e-books is much cheaper and less cumbersome. The Times also suggests a good cover to keep your tablet from bumps or drops.

Choose the Right Laptop

Students will appreciate the economy, power and space-saving properties of modern laptops. Tablets are helpful for the sole reason listed above, but a laptop is essential for any college student. Choosing the right computer depends upon your studies. Some colleges have specific recommendations; others have particular requirements for majors such as engineering and graphic design. Check with the school's IT department and counselors. Student may also be able to take advantage of discounted machines offered by the likes of Apple.

Music is Fundamental

Enduring a day of classes or a night of study is made infinitely more survivable if you can take a music break between classes or back in the dorm before or while you hit the books. Earbuds for your phone are a campus necessity, but when you're back in your room The Times finds these tiny speakers inadequate — especially when you want to share your tunes. They recommend investing in a Bluetooth speaker with good sound quality and battery life. They're easy to connect and fill a room with decent sound in a portable body.

A Quality Backpack

The right backpack is essential. Unlike the bulky backpacks of yesteryear, today's backpacks come with special compartments designed for gadgets and gear. Most separate your books and supplies from your tech for protection and quick access. Some even in-

cluding charging stations. Best of all, modern backpacks are more versatile, comfortable and sleeker than ever before. Don't go cheap. You'll regret it.

What You Don't Need

Television: Most dorms are too small for decent-size TVs. You can stream programs on your laptop or connect it to a larger monitor for a better viewing experience. Printer: Another space hog, printers also drain your bank account by burning through paper and ink, and professors these days rarely require hard copies of term papers. It's cheaper to access the local office supply store's printer if you need one. Cookware: Such items like microwaves and coffeemakers might seem like no-brainers to the uninitiated, but most of these items are banned by many schools for safety. Besides, common areas likely are already stocked with such items for community use.

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For more information please contact the N.I.E. Representative Misty Berg at 541-902-3526 or mberg@thesiuslawnews.com

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