

Augusta University

Policy Library

Mandatory Student Device Ownership

Policy Owner: Information Technology Support and Services

POLICY STATEMENT

Academic Programs may require mandatory student ownership of laptops and hand-held devices if these tools serve as an indispensable and valued asset to the educational experience of the student. Student ownership must be determined at the Program level for purposes of being included in the cost of attendance. Adequate and appropriate utilization of the device must be incorporated into the curriculum if mandatory ownership is required. Associated costs of these technologies should be eligible for inclusion into the student cost of attendance. Minimum standards must be defined in conjunction with Information Technology Services as requisite for the actual device(s). All academic degree programs are eligible. This policy outlines the procedures to be followed by an academic program requesting mandatory student ownership of laptops and hand-held devices.

Augusta University recognizes that the use of laptops and hand-held devices may serve as an indispensable asset to the didactic and clinical education of the student. The hand-held devices must be of a consistent minimum standard for the educational applications to be supported by the devices. Associated costs of these devices should be eligible for inclusion into the student's cost of attendance and meet the compliance standards for which the institution is accountable.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni Faculty Graduate Students Health Professional Students
 Staff Undergraduate Students Vendors/Contractors Visitors
 Other:

DEFINITIONS

Hand-held device

Refers to a pocket-sized, mobile computing device, typically using a small visual display screen for user output and a miniaturized keyboard for user input. In the case of the personal digital assistant (PDA) as well as some "smartphones," the input and output are combined into a touch-screen interface.

Laptop computer

A laptop computer or simply laptop (also notebook computer or notebook) is a small mobile computer, usually weighing 2.2 to 12 pounds (1 to 6 kilograms), depending on size, materials, and other factors. Laptops contain components that are similar to their desktop counterparts and perform the same functions, but are

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miniaturized and optimized for mobile use and efficient power consumption. Students are permitted to use these systems to take notes, write papers, and perform other college-related activities.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES

Requests have been presented for requiring mandatory student ownership of laptops and hand-held devices with associated costs of these devices eligible for inclusion into the student cost of attendance. Minimum standards of functionality are required for these requests. In thoughtful consideration of cost-containment for higher education, these technologies must serve as an indispensable and valued asset to the educational experience of the student. Therefore, adequate and appropriate utilization of the device must be incorporated into the curriculum. The following academic and curricular requirements are proposed to ensure sufficient utilization, practical application, benefit, and value to the education of the student:

- Use of the technology must play a significant role in the student's education experience (didactic or clinical).
- Use of the technology must be clearly identified as essential in the didactic curriculum, defined in the learning objectives, and measured as a part of the student learning outcomes.
- The technology must be utilized as a learning resource tool and the academic program must provide learning resources for application to the hand-held devices that support the education of the student.
- The technology must be of a consistent minimum standard for the educational applications to be supported by the devices.

Process/Procedures

1. The faculty requesting mandatory student ownership of a device will recommend to a Department or Program Chair that such a device be considered to support the curriculum.
2. The Chair will recommend to the Dean, on behalf of the faculty, the mandatory student ownership of the device technology.
3. The Dean may submit in writing a recommendation and required justification form to the Vice Provost supporting the mandatory ownership.
4. The Vice Provost will ensure that the proposed educational application achieves the academic and curricular requirements defined above.
5. The Vice Provost will distribute to the AVP of Academic & Research Technology who will ensure that the technology requested feasibly meets the stated objectives in the request and can be supported by Information Technology Services.
6. The Vice Provost will present a formal recommendation on the submitted request to the Provost. Institutional approval will rest with the Provost.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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RELATED POLICIES

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APPROVED BY:

President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System Date: 06/13/2017