

**FAQ: Using Apple Computers at GW Law  
(Specs, Support, Exams, etc.)**

**Q: Why are Apple computers excluded from the required specifications for student notebook computers?**

A: The Law School established minimum specifications for notebook computers to ensure students' success in using the Law School's systems and to enable the Law School to develop its systems and services effectively.

The Law School chose the Microsoft Windows operating system platform for its compatibility with software and systems in use now or planned for the near future at the school. This applies to the computers provided for students in the labs, library workstations, and even faculty and staff machines. The extension of this choice of Windows to the notebook computer requirement is based on our experience that full functionality and successful support of computer systems at the Law School depends on our students having computers with a standard operating system.

The Law School develops its systems – design, testing, and implementation – in the Windows environment only. These systems include the wired and wireless network authentication and security processes, remote access to the print management system, software to administer exams and manage wireless submission, and possibly other services in the future. Success with many of the Law School's systems currently may be possible on the Mac operating system, but students relying on such notebooks will be at risk for losing functionality as the Law School's systems develop. Further, any software the Law School provides or requires for academic purposes will be selected on a Windows platform without regard to its availability for the Mac operating system.

Note our focus on the “Mac operating system.” As addressed below, it is possible to have an Apple computer that complies with our specifications by running the Windows operating system.

**Q: Can I use my MacBook running Boot Camp and Windows XP Professional to accomplish whatever the Law School requires us to do in Windows?**

A: This appears to be a possible method to comply with the Law School's specifications, but it has not been tested by the Law School.

**Q: Does the Help Desk provide support for Macs?**

A: The Mac operating system is not supported by the Help Desk. Notebook computer-related instructions and services provided by the Help Desk are limited to computers that meet the required minimum specifications. The Help Desk would be unable to maintain efficient and effective operations – and it would be unfair to students – if the Help Desk were to attempt to provide assistance for computers (such as those running the Mac operating system) for which there is not complete accommodation at the systems level. Limited support for MacBooks running Boot Camp and Windows XP Professional is available, but it does not include setup or troubleshooting of Boot Camp.

**Q: Is the Extegrity Exam4 software available for Macs?**

A: For Fall 2007 final exams, the Law School authorized Extegrity to release the Mac operating system version of Exam4 to GW students. This carried over to Spring 2008 exams and likely will continue further. However, as stated above, the Law School does not support the Mac operating system at the systems level or at the Help Desk. This means that the Law School will not provide any assistance regarding Exam4 for the Mac operating system. Some basic setup and troubleshooting assistance may be available from Extegrity. Students choosing to use this software will do so entirely at their own risk. Problems with taking and submitting exams will impact the Law School's future decisions by the Law School to release the Mac operating system version of Exam4.