Suggested Specifications for Purchasing New Computers

- **Operating System:** Windows 10 or higher or Mac OS 10.14 Mojave or higher
- **Memory:** minimum of 8GB RAM recommended.
- **Processor Speed:** minimum of Intel Core i5 or equivalent
- **Hard Drive/SSD:** 256 GB or larger
- **Wireless:** Any card that supports 802.11 n/ac protocols and WPA2 Enterprise

Optional/Recommended Peripherals

- **External USB Hard Drive** - An external USB hard drive is useful for data backups and transferring files between computers. We recommend regularly backing up your data so your important personal files will remain intact in case of hard drive failure in the computer. The backup process is different for Apple and Windows systems.
- **USB Ethernet Adapter** - Since wireless network access is now more widely available, some laptop manufacturers have stopped installing Ethernet cards for network cable access in certain models of laptops. If you purchase a laptop without an Ethernet card, we recommend having a USB Ethernet adapter as a backup method of accessing the Internet should wireless not be available.

Things to Consider When Purchasing a New Computer

- **Laptop or desktop system** - Laptops are more popular, due to their compact size and portability, but can be more expensive than a desktop system with comparable specifications.
- **Your major** - Some programs/courses of study within the College will give you the option of downloading software onto your computer for classwork, and these programs may be resource intensive. Typically, the science programs (engineering, math, economics, computer science, etc.) require more powerful computers. If you plan on pursuing one of these majors, it may be beneficial to have a computer with better specifications. We recommend contacting the department for special requirements or recommendations.
- **Apple or Windows** - Either an Apple or Windows computer is fine for most programs at the College. However, there are a few programs that may recommend one operating system over the other based on software used in those areas of study. Contact the program or department for more information.

Spelman Technology Services requires all computers using the College's network to have recent critical updates installed for your operating system. The best way to do this is to turn on automatic software updates.