

Suggested Equipment for Communications Students

Prices are approximate and not guaranteed. Lower prices may possibly be found through online retailers such as Amazon.com. Regardless, please check carefully to make sure the items you select will meet the requirements outlined below and are of sufficiently durable quality. The Communications Program is not responsible for equipment that does not meet recommended standards, or for poor-quality equipment. It is usually wiser to spend a little more for an item of known good quality.

Because prices change, supply chains vary and manufacturers discontinue items, this list does not include specific model numbers. However, the Communications faculty can advise on specific equipment if need be. Please contact Dr. Jodie Peeler or Prof. Al de Lachica if you need guidance.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Digital camcorder (\$300-\$400)

This will be used in all video production courses, as well as journalism courses. The camcorder you select should have HD capabilities, the ability to produce output in MP4 format, and a jack for connecting an external microphone. It's also a good idea to purchase an extra battery and at least one additional memory card.

Many modern mobile phones are able to record video of broadcast quality, though special equipment (tripod adapters, microphone adapters, etc.) and some training will be required to satisfactorily use the phone in the manner required for Communications assignments. Faculty can advise as needed.

Tripod (\$15-\$25)

The tripod you select must not only be compatible with your chosen camcorder but must have telescoping legs that help provide adequate height (maximum height of 44" or so) as well as tilt and pan capabilities. Students using a cell phone camera will need a tripod adapter.

Carrying bag for camcorder and equipment (\$15-\$25)

Lavalier microphone (\$25)

You will need at least one lavalier microphone that will connect to your camcorder. You will use this in interviews and on-camera assignments. Students using a cell phone will need an adapter.

Laptop computer with video editing software (varies)

Users of Apple laptops already have iMovie as part of Mac OS X. Users of Windows systems should purchase the latest version of Pinnacle Studio Ultimate (approx. \$100). More powerful computers of both kinds can run Da Vinci Resolve (available free from Blackmagic Design).

Regardless, you will need a laptop with reasonable computing power. Video processing needs a certain amount of power, and tablets (iPads, etc.), Chromebooks and similar devices will not work for what you'll be doing in our courses.

Sound editing software (free)

Audacity is a powerful open-source sound editing suite available for free download, for both Windows and Mac OS, at <https://audacityteam.org>

Appropriate cables to connect your camcorder to your computer (as needed)

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Portable Digital Sound Recorder (approx. \$150-\$200)

This will let you record high-fidelity audio projects in digital format for audio production courses and broadcast journalism projects. Choose a high quality unit that will allow you to use memory cards and external microphones through an XLR or mini-jack (3.5 mm) input and that will connect to your laptop via USB connection.