Student Technology/Software Needs

From responses to the Week 3 UA Student Online/Remote Classroom Experience Survey, about two out of ten (22%) of students report that a lack of access to appropriate technology/software is a barrier to their online/remote learning. Additionally, one-third of students report limited internet access is a challenge which reduces their ability to participate in remote classes. These barriers to online/remote classroom learning are found to be greater among Native American and Latinx students as reported here. Technology and software needs are ranked from higher need (High-speed and reliable internet) to lower need (graphing calculators) below.

Higher Need
- High-speed and reliable internet
- Laptops (computers must have Adobe software, Chrome Books have limitations and often do not meet course technology/software requirements)
- Various required software or platforms that individual courses/degree programs utilize
- Headphones with a microphone
- Webcams
- Printers
- Monitors
- Attendance tracking and proctoring programs/software
- Scanners
- Graphing calculators

Lower Need

Sources: UA Student Online/Remote Classroom Experience and Learning Survey | September 2020, Wildcat Check-in, Student Emergency Fund, Student and Instructor Perceptions, Attitudes, and Emotions Surrounding online Spaces and Institutional Supports during a Pandemic (COVID-19)

Campus Resources
- UA Libraries – Borrowing Technology Funding
- Information Technology OSCR Gear-to-Go Center
- Richard H. Tyler Student Emergency Fund
- Financial Aid & Scholarships: Students are able to request a Cost of Attendance (COA) Appeal for a laptop/computer one time in their career. Students are also able to request a COA Appeal for software/technology expenses for a course. The student must have already made the purchase and provide a paid receipt. Although it depends on the student’s financial aid package, most students’ COA may be increased based on the appeal and they may be eligible to receive additional loans to cover expenses.