Welcome to the Laker Tech Department

Laker Tech is a state of the art technology hub located within GVSU Laker Store. It was created as a retail space to provide the technology and resources you need during your time at Grand Valley. At Laker Tech you will find a large selection of computers (Apple® and PC), tablets (iPad® and Microsoft Surface™) and tech accessories. Please use this guide as a starting point when making your technology purchases. The Laker Tech staff is always available to help answer any questions you may have.
Why Laker Tech?

Although a personal computer is not required at GVSU, it is strongly recommended. As you consider your options, we’re here to provide the information you need to purchase the device that will work best for you! When you shop with Laker Tech, shop with confidence knowing that:

• Our employees are dedicated to helping you find the tools you need to succeed at GVSU.
• We offer education pricing on all Mac®, iPad® and select PCs. Prices are exclusively available to students, faculty and staff.
• We offer education-exclusive protection plans, created to provide you with peace of mind.
• Our selection includes the latest technology from the top tech brands.
• You can use your financial aid as a payment method.
• Free device set up is offered with all purchases.
• On-site repair services are available for computers, tablets, and phones.
• We employ full-time staff and student employees with first-hand knowledge of campus and its technology requirements.
• We are conveniently located on campus.
• We provide employment to GVSU students.
• We are owned and operated by GVSU.
Selecting the Right Device

Each student has a unique education plan, and we want to help you choose the right device to guide you down your path to success.

**Laptop or Desktop?**

Both desktops and laptops are options for students. Laptops are preferred by students due to their portability. Laker Tech currently sells a variety of laptops, tablets, 2-in-1 PCs, and iMac® computers. Desktop computers are located in student computer labs across both the Allendale and Pew campuses.

**Tablet, iPad or Chromebook?**

Tablet, iPad®, or Chromebook are all popular options for note taking and portability. Chromebooks are not to be confused with a normal laptop; they function entirely through a web browser and must be connected to the internet in order to access or utilize most applications and documents.

Generally, these devices are not recommended as a primary device because they are limited in their capabilities when compared to a laptop. The new lineup of iPad Pro® models may work as a primary device for some majors, but tablets typically function as a secondary device. If considering one of these devices, stop by Laker Tech to speak with a student employee regarding personalized recommendations.
Choosing Your Operating System

GVSU supports both Apple® and Windows computers and offers access to desktop versions of both operating systems in student computer labs across campus. When determining which operating system to purchase, students should consider their major. Most majors don’t recommend a specific operating system, allowing your decision to be based on personal preference. However, there are a few majors that suggest one operating system over another to better suit student needs.

Apple computers are preferable for Art/Design, Film/Video and Photography majors. Windows computers are recommended for Engineering and some Business majors. Apple and Windows operating systems come with built-in anti-virus software that protects the device, however students should consider additional anti-virus software to avoid having any mid-semester crises.
# Recommended Tech Specs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Basic User</th>
<th>Average to Advanced User</th>
<th>Power User</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processor</strong></td>
<td>i3+ Processor or similar</td>
<td>i5-i7 Processor</td>
<td>i7 Processor or similar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAM</strong></td>
<td>4GB+</td>
<td>8GB+</td>
<td>16GB+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard Drive</strong></td>
<td>250GB HHD or 128GB SS</td>
<td>500GB HHD or 256GB SS</td>
<td>750GB HHD or 256GB+ SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graphics</strong></td>
<td>Integrated Graphics</td>
<td>Discrete Graphics</td>
<td>ATI or NVIDIA Discrete Graphics Card with 2GB+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Common Uses</strong></td>
<td>Occasional internet browsing (access to email, social media, cloud services, etc.)</td>
<td>Frequent internet browsing (access to email, social media, cloud services, etc.)</td>
<td>Frequent use of engineering software, photo/video editing software or design software</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occasional use of Microsoft Office or similar</td>
<td>Frequent use of Microsoft Office or similar</td>
<td>Gaming</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Multi-tasking/running multiple programs at once</td>
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Accessories

Technology is a considerable investment and you’ll want to protect it. We carry a variety of cases and bags to do just that. However, while protecting the exterior of their machines, many students forget about what’s inside. Don’t forget to back up your files! Grand Valley’s IT department recommends that all users back up their files regularly to prevent data loss. We suggest, at the very least, to back up files that are important such as resumés and term papers. We carry a variety of flash drives for temporary back up as well as external hard drives for long-term data back up.

Other Electronics

We also carry other useful electronics such as calculators, headphones, wearable tech, phone chargers and cables, and gaming accessories.
College Proof Your Device

Safeware provides protection plans that offer comprehensive coverage for college technology. With plans ranging from one to four years, there’s a solution for every device!

SAFEWARE PLANS INCLUDE:

- Accidental Damage from Handling
- 1 Year Theft Coverage Provided
- Failure From Breakdown or Defect
- No Fees on Service Plan
- Onsite Genius Phone Repair

Exclusions and limitations apply. Please see terms and conditions for full coverage details. Coverage provided by National Product Care Company, except in AZ, FL, and OK, where it is Service Saver, Incorporated; (FL license number 80173, OK license number 44198549) and in WA where it is Service Plan Inc. All located at: 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL. Administered by Safeware 5700 Perimeter Drive, Suite E, Dublin, OH 43017, 1-800-900-1492.

1 This theft coverage plan is provided by Safeware, The Insurance Agency, Inc., under an insurance policy that will be issued to you by Technology Insurance Company, Inc., promptly after registering. You must register your plan within 30 days of product purchase to take advantage of this offer. You will need to provide us with your contact information and product details in order to complete registration. There is no additional cost to register. Once registered, this plan provides theft coverage for one year from the date you purchase your product, subject to the terms, conditions, exclusions and a $100 deductible under the insurance policy.
Software

Students may also need to install certain programs on their computers for various applications within their majors. Below are details about the most commonly used software at GVSU.

**Free Microsoft Office 365**

GVSU provides Microsoft Office 365 free of charge to every student.

To get your free Office 365 follow these steps:

2. Enter your GVSU student email (ends in @mail.gvsu.edu). If prompted, select Work or School account.
3. Enter your GVSU student email password.
4. Press the white button labeled “Install Office Apps” then select “Install Office 365” located near the top right side of the web page.
5. Follow the on-screen instructions to finish the installation process.

**Anti-Virus Software**

It’s highly recommended that students protect their devices with an additional anti-virus program. Visit the GVSU IT Helpdesk in the library for anti-virus recommendations.
Repair Services

Laker Tech offers full-service computer, tablet and cell phone repair services via Genius Phone Repair, a Safeware Certified Repair Center. The experienced technicians at Genius will diagnose your device free of charge, and if you decide to move forward, they will carefully repair your broken device while ensuring the highest level of customer service. Most repairs can be done in just a few hours. They are so confident in their quality parts and service that every repair comes with a lifetime warranty.

SERVICES

- Cell Phone Repair
- iPhone® Repair
- iPod® Repair
- iPad® Repair
- iMac® and Macbook® Repair
- Computer Repair
- Android Device Repair
- Drone Repair
- Tablet Repair
- Trade-in Program
- Refurbished Device Sales
Other Helpful Resources

GVSU offers a variety of resources for your convenience. Visit www.gvsu.edu/it for more information.

WIRELESS INTERNET

GVSU students can access the GVSU WiFi network from any building on campus.

MOBILE APPS AND RESOURCES

Sign up on myBanner to receive GVSU alert notifications regarding campus closings, safety and more.

myGV: App that offers an easy way to access academic information (grades, schedule, etc.) and campus information (maps, dining locations, library hours, etc.)

RAVE Guardian: App to stay connected and stay safe. Set up safety timers, connect with GVPD and more.

COMPUTER LABS

GVSU student computer labs are located on both campuses with access to both Apple and PC desktop computers free for student use.

PRINTING

GVSU computer labs offer free, limited black and white printing for all students. GVSU’s cloud-based printing service allows you to print from any device by sending your file(s) to the cloud and releasing to any of the specified campus locations. For instructions visit gvprint.gvsu.edu. For color copies, book binding, faxing and other specialty printing services visit the Copy Center within GVSU Laker Store.
Contact Us

Shop the Laker Tech department at GVSU Laker Store Allendale or online at lakerstore.gvsu.edu/lakertech. For all clothing, gifts, supplies, and more, shop in store at either the Allendale or Grand Rapids location or online at lakerstore.gvsu.edu.

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