

Chromebook FAQ

What is a Chromebook?

A Chromebook is a different type of laptop. It uses an operating system called Chrome OS which is based on Google's Chrome web browser. Although most Google apps will continue to work even when not connected to the Internet, all their features are only accessible when online. Most anything you can do via the internet you can do on a Chromebook.

Why are Chromebooks not listed as an option in the Computer Recommendations web page?

As mentioned, while a Chromebook will work fine for email, Portal, and web surfing there are considerations when using it for document creation/management and online classes. There may also be some software that is required for some classes that is incompatible with Chromebook. **Due to these limitations, it is not recommended for use as a student's primary computer.**

Are they compatible with Southeast's wireless network?

Yes. Chromebooks will connect to Southeast's wireless network.

What can I use it for?

The Chromebook is ideal for email, web searches, accessing the MySoutheast Portal, searching library databases - in fact, pretty much anything that is web-based.

Can I run or install other applications – such as Microsoft Office?

Chromebooks use web apps and websites, so traditional software programs cannot be installed. However, Southeast students have access to Office 365's web-based suite of applications (including Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.*).

Also, Chromebooks will run Google's own applications for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and email. These applications will open and save files in Office format (however there may be some formatting features available within Office that are not compatible).

Additional apps may be available through the Google Play Store**.

What about online classes at Southeast?

While Canvas (the university's learning management system) is generally browser independent, some features in Canvas work better in some browsers than in others. While the built-in Chrome browser will work for most functions within Canvas, there is a **Canvas Student** app available for download from the Google Play Store*. Additionally, the student may be able to download additional browsers from the Google Play Store** (i.e. Firefox).

* It is important to note that some Office apps (i.e. Access) are not available via the web.

** Not all Chromebooks are able to access the Google Play Store. Some older Chromebooks, for example, may have to be upgraded in order to have access.