

PDA Purchase FAQs

1. Can I use a Palm or Blackberry device instead of a Pocket PC?

We recommend the iPAQ Pocket PC because its operating system, Windows Mobile 5.0, works with the Windows.Net platform. The UCHC Student Experience Log was developed using a Windows.Net Platform, specifically for the Pocket PCs. Palm and Blackberry devices each have their own operating systems (Palm OS and Blackberry OS respectively) that are not compatible with the Student Log. In addition, Blackberry devices do not have the necessary processing power to run the professional databases that you are required to use. It is possible to use the web version of the Student Log from your laptop or home computer, but it is easier and more efficient, to enter the data on a PDA device, while you are at the clinical site. In general, students have had more success with downloading and syncing information on Pocket PCs vs. Palm devices.

2. Why can't I purchase a Smart Phone running Windows Mobile 5.0 like an HP iPAQ hw 6900 or a Palm Treo? There are a few reasons why Smart Phones are not recommended. Among some of the reasons are:

- a. Smart Phones, in general, do not have the full Windows Mobile 5.0 for Pocket PC application. They have a *Phone Edition Windows Mobile 5.0* for Pocket PC. This is not the full version of Windows Mobile 5.0. We have experienced some difficulties working with certain types of documents using the Phone Edition version of Windows Mobile 5.0.
- b. The HP iPAQ hw6900 Smart Phone does not have the level of processor speed or ROM needed to support the required UCHC software.
- c. Cell phone service providers often have stringent constraints in terms of length of contract, cancellation policies and fee structures.
- d. Most hospitals prohibit the use of cell phones on patient floors.

3. Will my PDA be able to access the Internet at UCHC?

Yes, while you are at UCHC, you will be able to access the JDH-Link public wireless network from the cafeteria and a number of other locations on the UCHC campus. You should have Internet access at many local hotspots as well, such as at coffee shops and other retail hotspots. **Please note that JDH-Link is an unsecured, public network and should not be used to transmit or receive confidential information. For HIPAA compliance, no patient specific data should be received or transmitted over a network that is not secured.**

4. How will the new release of Windows Mobile 6.0 impact the PDA devices?

Windows Mobile 6.0 is scheduled to be incorporated into new mobile devices during the 2nd quarter of 2007. Documentation from Microsoft states that most applications written to run on Windows Mobile 5.0 should be able to run on Windows Mobile 6.0 without any changes. As soon as the Windows Mobile 6.0 OS is released to the public, we will begin testing on the product.

5. I want to purchase an SD card for additional storage on my device. Are there any limits to the quantity of memory allowed?

According to HP specifications, HP will only officially support SD memory cards with a maximum of 1 GB of added memory. You may conveniently purchase an SD card from the UCHC Bookstore or other retailers.