

iPads in Forestry - Information for Students

In fall 2014, the Forest Resources Technology Program at VIU will embark on an exciting new approach to learning in both our indoor and outdoor classrooms. As a student, you will use an iPad for navigating, information gathering and note taking in the forest, you will use it in classes to interact with the instructors and fellow students, and you will have a digital library always at your fingertips! The iPad tablet will replace \$800 in book purchases and prepare you for use of current technology in the forest industry.

How will this work?

Each student will purchase his/her own iPad and waterproof case (essential for field use). You will need to have your tablet for the **first week** of classes. We will be introducing usage gradually and giving you help. You will need to download some "apps" and eBooks as they are needed (most are free, but a few must be purchased).

Minimum specifications:

- iPad Air (full-size tablet) OR iPad Mini, Retina Display version
- 32GB*
- WiFi + Cellular capability**
- AppleCare+ (Extends warranty from 1yr to 2yrs, plus 2 incidents of accidental damage; some fees apply)
- Waterproof case (Lifeproof, Otterbox or Griffin)

*The standard model iPad and iPad Mini have 16GB of storage, which will not likely be adequate. We expect that you will need most of the 32GB for school apps, eBooks, maps and other files. So, if you want to use the iPad for a lot of personal files (e.g., music, photos), then you will want to get extra storage space or manage your data carefully using iCloud or other web storage, with just essentials on the iPad.

Cellular capability is required in order to use the GPS features outdoors. **You do NOT have to purchase a SIM card and a monthly data plan for this to function.

Ordering

Order from Apple (use the link on this page, or on the VIU Bookstore site), or check out Amazon.ca or local retail stores. Be sure to allow enough time for shipping!

Current Pricing (March 2014)†

iPad Air (32GB, WiFi+Cellular)	\$ 749
Lifeproof case ("Frē" model)	123
AppleCare+	99
Apps (estimate)	50
Taxes (12%)	123
Total	\$1144

iPad Mini, Retina Display (32GB, WiFi+Cellular)	\$ 649
Lifeproof case ("Frē" model)	111
AppleCare+	99
Apps (estimate)	50
Taxes (12%)	109
Total	\$1018

†Apple education discount does not apply to iPads.

Optional accessories

You may upgrade to more storage or buy accessories depending on your personal needs.

- Cover/stand (Lifeproof model) \$ 45
- Wireless keyboard \$ 75
- SIM card \$10 / data plan \$ 5/mo (10MB) & up
- Field pack (various options)
- Additional storage capacity for both the iPad Air or iPad Mini, Retina Display is \$100 for 64GB and \$200 for 128GB.

Which tablet should you get?

There are various pros and cons for the full-size iPad Air versus the iPad Mini; it's your choice.

iPad Mini Pro: cheaper, smaller (fits in field vest pocket)

Con: less screen space for maps; less desirable for classroom use (e.g. with keyboard as a laptop)

iPad Air Pro: larger screen for maps, or for use as a laptop; **Con:** price, more bulky for field use (stores in back of vest= less convenient without custom pack)

What if you already have an Android or Microsoft tablet? Sorry, but these devices will not give you all the functionality required for the program.

Links for web ordering

Apple Store <http://store.apple.com/ca/findyourschool>

Waterproof cases

Lifeproof: <http://www.lifeproof.com/en/>

Otterbox: <http://www.otterbox.com/apple-cases/apple-cases,default.sc.html>

Griffen: <http://store.griffintechology.com/>

Custom field packs for tablets www.Tablet-EX-Gear.com

Questions? Email VIU Forestry Co-Chairs: bill.beese@viu.ca or doug.corrin@viu.ca