

Ohio State University- Department of Dance

External Hard Drive Purchase and Format Guide

At Ohio State Dance, technology is deeply embedded in the curriculum, so all dance majors are **required** to have a hard drive fast enough to act as a media drive. It's crucial that your external hard drive meets these tech specifications**:

- SSD (Solid State Drive) with 1050mps or higher transfer speed
- At least 1TB storage
- USB 3.0 connection

The brand of hard drive is up to you, if it meets the above specifications but **below is the tested and approved recommendation** by our Dance and Technology faculty (links may not have the best price, use your preferred search engine to find best deal). It is also recommended you purchase a hard-shell carrying case to protect your drive, but it is not required.

- [Samsung 1TB T7 Portable SSD](#)
- [Samsung 1TB T7 Shield Portable SSD](#)

These specifications ensure you will not only have enough storage but also enough power to work effectively off of the hard drive. After you buy the drive, it **needs to be formatted** for Mac (Department computers are entirely Mac, include the Dance Media Lab SU343). All new external hard drives can only be formatted for Mac **or** PC (not both) so if your personal computer is a PC/you have outside courses in a PC lab/etc., you may need an additional hard drive. [See this guide from Apple](#) for how to format your external hard drive on Mac, the recommended file system format is either APFS or Mac OS Extended (Journaled). Make sure this is done prior to bringing the hard drive to the course in which it is needed.

***Please note that a flash/thumb drive is not an acceptable substitution.*