

Windows Desktop Licensing for Academic Institutions



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. My academic institution is looking for the most cost-effective way to acquire new PCs running Windows operating systems (OS). What is the best way to obtain PCs with fully licensed Windows software?

A. The most cost-effective way to acquire genuine Windows licenses is to purchase PCs with the Windows software preinstalled by a computer manufacturer (OEM or system builder).

Q. If my organization has an Academic Volume License Agreement, including purchases off of a State-wide or Consortia Organization through an Open, Select, or Campus or School Agreement, that currently provides a Windows upgrade, are my PCs still required to have a license for the full Windows OS as well?

A. State-wide agreements are Volume License Agreements. These contracts provide the license for the upgrade—not the full Windows OS. You are required to have a separate license for the initial full eligible operating system deployed on any PC.* You can get a full version of Windows preinstalled on a new machine by your OEM or system builder. Or you can purchase a full-packaged product from a software reseller.

Q. If my school purchases PCs with Windows Desktop operating systems preinstalled by my OEM or system builder, can those operating systems be transferred to newly purchased PCs that are acquired without operating systems?

A. No. An OEM Windows operating system may never be transferred from the PC on which it was originally installed, even if it is no longer in use. A Windows license purchased via full-packaged product from a software reseller does have transferability rights, but, you should always refer to your End-User License Agreement (EULA) for specific transferability rights information.

What is a Microsoft Academic Volume License Agreement?

A Microsoft® Academic Volume License Agreement is an economical way for schools to acquire multiple licenses for software. There are four types of Academic Volume License Agreements available—Campus, School, Academic Open, and Academic Select.*

Academic Volume License Agreement = Windows Desktop Upgrade Only

All Volume License Agreements, purchased with or without Software Assurance, never cover the initial full Windows® Desktop operating system (OS) license. They only cover Windows Desktop OS upgrade licenses. Windows upgrades are designed to upgrade previously acquired full Windows licenses only.**

If your academic institution is preparing to purchase new PCs, the **Microsoft Software Verification & Resource Center** offers valuable resources designed to help you understand the rules and regulations around proper software licensing.

Services include:

- **BidAssist:** A resource for academic institutions dealing with open RFQs for computers that will be running Microsoft operating systems. 1-866-910-4RFQ (4737)
- **Microsoft Genuine Software Procurement Service** can assist you if you have concerns that the software you've acquired may not be genuine. 1-866-966-6060

Be Sure It's Genuine.

Ask for genuine Windows software preinstalled on your new PC.

It's the most cost-effective way to acquire a genuine Windows license, ensuring that you receive the support, reliability, and security enhancements you deserve.



Volume Licenses cover Windows Desktop upgrades only.

They may not be used to install the initial Windows operating system on your PC. Be sure to acquire your underlying Windows license preinstalled or via full-packaged retail product.

Preinstalled OEM Windows Desktop operating systems are tied to the computers on which they were originally installed.

They can not be transferred from one computer to another, even if the first computer is no longer in use.

www.microsoft.com/GenuineWindows

For more information about Windows licensing, please visit:
www.microsoft.com/windows/licensing