

# What I Wish I Knew When I Was an M1: IT Edition

Compiled by the class of 2024

## **Do I need to buy an iPad or monitor?**

- Every student has a different preference – some students like to use iPads, some need their monitors, some only use laptop screens, and others swear by their desktops.
- There are also [many ways](#) to repurpose TV screens or other tech you may already have to suit your needs, so it might be a good idea to test out what works for you in the first few weeks of school before making any big investments. This applies for textbooks and study materials too! Many of the resources you'll need are available through the Galter Library website or AWOME.

## **What is the best way to take notes?**

- If you prefer handwriting your notes/annotating lecture slides by hand, an iPad isn't the only digital way to do that. Look into drawing tablets (examples [here](#) and [here](#)) that you can plug into your computer and use with OneNote. Many students like using OneNote since you can import our large lecture PowerPoints and everything gets saved on Northwestern's cloud.
- Students who take notes on an iPad also like using an app called Notability. Feinberg-specific tutorials on both OneNote and Notability can be found [here](#).
- Don't discount the value of the old-fashioned spiral-bound notebook and a pack of multicolored pens – some students retain content spatially, which is sometimes lost on digital screens.
- If you prefer somewhere in between completely digital or completely analog, the Rocketbook is a budget-friendly compromise that lets you scan and index your handwritten notes.

## **What are some links I should have bookmarked?**

- [Feinberg's eMerg](#)
- [Canvas](#) (for taking exams and paper submissions)
- [Outlook Mail](#)
- [CAESAR](#) (used for financial aid and documentation)
- [UpToDate](#) (a cornerstone clinical resource)
- [Panopto](#) (for lecture recordings)
- If you use Google Chrome, lots of students love [this extension](#) to speed up videos
- [Northwestern Medicine Interactive](#) (how you'll access Epic)
- [Galter Proxy](#) (allows you to access papers and textbooks that would otherwise require you to log into the library VPN)
- [PaperCut Print Center](#) (for remote printing at the library)
- [Turning Point Web](#) (polling service for lectures)
- [GroupMe Web](#)

- [Feinberg Portfolio site](#) (where to find Clerkship Logs, Site Visit Goals for ECMH, exam scores, etc.)
- [Transloc Shuttle Tracker](#) (see intercampus shuttle locations in real time)

### **What is a VPN, and which ones do I need to set up?**

- A VPN is a virtual private network that essentially allows your computer to securely send and receive data, even from a remote location. For example, your computer can be perceived as being on campus even if you are off campus once connected to a VPN. This allows you access to library resources and shared files.
- FSM users should follow [these instructions](#) for using and configuring a VPN client compatible with the FSM network. Global Protect, a VPN client used in some parts of the University, is not recommended for Feinberg users at this time.

### **Any other advice?**

- It's helpful to get to know eMerg early on – it will be your one-stop shop for class schedule and materials. This includes synchronizing it with your calendar, getting familiar with its Curriculum Search function, and checking out the links under Student Tools.
- Figure out a flagging system to organize emails you receive that are Feinberg-related. Since Feinberg is at the intersection of Northwestern University and Northwestern Medicine, there are lots of important messages about trainings, paperwork, and resources that you'll get from both entities. One idea is to group them by things that require immediate action and things that you'll want to refer to later.
- Invest in a laptop stand if your computer screen is not at eye-level. Your back will thank you!