Outlining/Notetaking software

Aspen Studydesk is an all in one program focused specifically for law students. It integrates with electronic versions of AspenLaw study aids. It provides templates for briefs and outlines, flash cards, and the ability to take notes directly into the program. Once information is either bought from AspenLaw or entered by the student it can be integrated into one location for studying. Aspen has a 60-day trial version of Studydesk available for download from its website.

OneNote is a multi-faceted program that may assist a student with document and task organization and note taking. Note taking is similar to Microsoft Word with the addition of some rudimentary but quickly accessed drawing tools and the ability to place text or pictures anywhere on a sheet. For those who are facile with a word processing program and have developed a document organization system within it, this tool many not provide many advantages. OneNote will not work on Macs without BootCamp or Parallels. The cost of this software is $49.99 at the DU Bookstore, and more information and a trial version is available at the link above.

Outliner 4.0 by StoreLaw is outlining software specifically designed for law students. In addition to offering standard outlining capabilities, Outliner 4.0 also comes with outline templates geared to certain textbooks and the ability to download case briefs from WestLaw or Lexis. Outliner 4.0 has a free trial and requires a Windows or a Windows emulator. Outliner 4.0 has a free trial and is available for purchase for $64.95.

MaxThink includes both organizational and word-processing capabilities, and is designed to assist students in organizing their thoughts and generating ideas. The help for this software provide a fairly complete introduction to outlining and how to create a useful law school outline. This software is fairly complex and takes some time to master. The link above provides a 30-day trial version, after which it costs $29.

OmniOutliner is a powerful and dynamic outlining program available only for Mac. It allows students to create a variety of different styles of outlines and provides organizational guidance. Creating dynamic views and attaching other files may really help students. There is a personal and a pro version available.

Tinderbox is a Mac only tool that assists students with organization and analysis of notes and documents. This tool is fairly graphics intensive which may be very useful for visual learners. This program combines the functions of a mind mapper (see below) a note taker, and a hierarchical organizer in one complete package.

Note Mind allows for graphical organization on the document level. This sort of program may be useful to organize research documents around issues or to illustrate the relationships between different documents. This could be very helpful for students who like visual organization tools. This is Mac only software.

Mind Mapping - Brainstorming software

MindManager is an intuitive and easy to learn mind mapping software. Students may use mindmapping software to graphically organize data, take notes, create outlines, and manage tasks. This allows for organized analysis and quickly altering how information is understood. Mind mapping is especially helpful when a situation involves analysis of multiple factors when reaching a conclusion. Both Mac and Windows versions are available.

OmniGraffle is a easy to use program to create diagrams of processes or flow charts. Students who are visual learners may benefit from this software. Adding flow charts, org charts, network diagrams, and other graphics to outlines for various classes may help with understanding and make test taking more efficient. This program is only available for Macs. This diagram specifically describes the research process in, for example, your Lawyering Process class.

Inspiration is mind mapping software available for both Windows and Mac. This software is not as intuitive as MindManager but is potentially more powerful. The mindmaps and outlines created by Inspiration may greatly help visual learners and help with organization of large amounts of complex data. Viewing information in a graphical format may help illustrate the relationships between various concepts. A 30-day free trial of Inspiration may be downloaded from the link above.

Flashcards Programs

Memory Lifter is a flashcard program that allows students to create their own flashcards on their computer. The program also has built-in "test" features that allow students to quiz themselves once they have created their flashcards. Memory Lifter's "book" feature allows students to create different categories of cards, generating cards for different courses or for different specific subjects within a course. It is free to download and use.

Flashcard Exchange is a flashcard program that allows students to generate their own flashcards. On the Flashcard Exchange website students may view other students' flashcards, although students should be aware that any flashcards posted are not reviewed for accuracy. These cards are created and viewed online, not on the student's own computer. In order to print or export flashcards a student must sign up for a $19.95 membership. To create, share, or study online Flashcard Exchange is free.

Software Discounts

Academic Superstore is an online software retailer that caters to students and teachers. You must sign-up and provide proof that you qualify for academic discounts. The prices discounts make the small hassle of signing-up worthwhile for any student who maybe purchasing some of the software mentioned here.