GPUpartner

VALIDATION REPORT · TEXT GENERATION

# SmolLM3 3B

on M5 Ultra 512 GB · 8-bit (Q8_0) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

STATUS · NOV 22, 2026

**Validated**

5 of 5 checks pass

**SmolLM3 3B at 8-bit runs on the M5 Ultra 512 GB with 64K of context at about 141 tokens a second.**

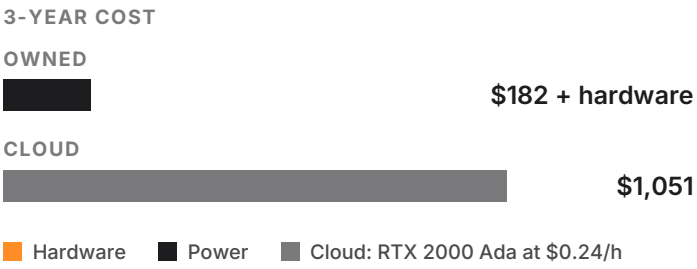
## VALIDATION

| CHECK | TARGET | RESULT | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fits in GPU memory | 384 GB usable | 8.1 GB needed | PASS |
| Headroom | 5% free | 376 GB free (98%) | PASS |
| Context for chat | 16K or more | 64K | PASS |
| Writing speed | 15 tok/s or more | 141 tok/s | PASS |
| First reply | under 3 s, 2K prompt | 0.2 s | PASS |

Targets: a reply you can read along with, a first reply the use case tolerates, and 5% of memory left free. Calculated from published specs, not benchmarked.

## BUDGET

| | |
|---|---|
| HARDWARE, ONE-TIME | MSRP not entered |
| POWER, PER YEAR | $61 · 231 W at the wall |
| CLOUD INSTEAD, PER YEAR | $350 |
| 3-YEAR TOTAL, OWNED | Hardware + $182 power |
| 3-YEAR TOTAL, CLOUD | $1,051 |
| BREAK-EVEN | Needs the hardware MSRP |




Budget basis: 4 h a day, power at $0.18 per kWh, cloud at RunPod on-demand prices as of Nov 22, 2026. Hardware at the MSRP entered in the calculator, not a GPU Partner quote. A 3-year view; resale value, staff time and taxes aren't counted.

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TECHNICAL DETAIL · TEXT GENERATION

# SmolLM3 3B

on M5 Ultra 512 GB · 8-bit (Q8_0) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

## SETUP

| | |
|---|---|
| PARAMETERS | 3.1B |
| PRECISION | 8-bit (Q8_0) |
| CONTEXT | 64K, auto |
| CHATS AT ONCE | 1 |
| USE | Chat |
| RUNS IN | Ollama / LM Studio |
| HARDWARE | M5 Ultra 512 GB |
| GPU CAN USE | 384 GB of 512 GB |

## SAME MODEL, OTHER MACHINES

| | |
|---|---|
| RTX 4090 | 8-bit · 175 tok/s |
| RTX 5090 | 8-bit · 271 tok/s |
| RTX PRO 6000 BLACKWELL | 8-bit · 271 tok/s |
| M5 MAX 128 GB | 8-bit · 100 tok/s |
| M3 ULTRA 256 GB | 8-bit · 111 tok/s |
| DGX SPARK 128 GB | 8-bit · 55 tok/s |
| RYZEN AI MAX+ 395 128 GB | 8-bit · 43 tok/s |

## MEMORY

| | |
|---|---|
| WEIGHTS | 3.0 GB |
| CONTEXT | 4.5 GB |
| RUNTIME | 571 MB |
| SYSTEM | 128 GB |
| FREE | 376 GB |

## HOW TO RUN IT

| | |
|---|---|
| LLAMA.CPP | `llama-server -hf bartowski/HuggingFaceTB_SmolLM3-3B-GGUF` |
| VLLM | `vllm serve HuggingFaceTB/SmolLM3-3B` |
| MLX (MAC) | `mlx_lm.chat --model mlx-community/SmolLM3-3B-4bit` |
| MODEL CARD | huggingface.co/HuggingFaceTB/SmolLM3-3B |

## METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS

Memory is the weights (parameters times bits per weight, read from each model's config.json), the context cache for every chat, and the runtime, against the memory this GPU can use after the OS and display take theirs. Writing speed is memory bandwidth over the bytes read per token, plus a per-layer latency, calibrated against llama.cpp benchmarks. First reply is the prompt's FLOPs over the chip's dense 16-bit TFLOPS at the runtime's measured efficiency. Running cost is power at the wall at your rate and hours; the cloud figure is the cheapest RunPod on-demand GPU that runs the same job. Accuracy: memory lands within about a gigabyte; speeds and times are rough, about ±25%. Model data and hardware specs checked Nov 2026; cloud prices are RunPod's on-demand list as of Nov 22, 2026. Report VR-0NPO8PY, generated November 22, 2026.