



College of Design Computer Standards for Students 2019-2020 Academic Year

These recommendations are for technology needs for all **first year** students in the College of Design.

Collegiate Computer Recommendations Hardware Minimum Specs

PC

Laptop & OS	Dell G5 with Windows 10 (64bit)
Screen Size	15.6" Display
Processor	8th Generation Intel 6 Core i7
Memory (RAM)	16 GB DDR4
Hard Drive	512GB Solid State Drive
Graphics Card	NVIDIA video card with 6GB RAM
Price & Location	UMN Bookstore - \$1594
Tax	Students in an academic program that requires a laptop may purchase it tax-free from the UMN Bookstore.
Warranty	Includes ProSupport Plus: -Accidental Damage Service, 4 Years -Keep Your Hard Dive, 4 Years -Next Business Day Onsite, 1 Year -Next Business Day Onsite, 3 Years Extended -7 X 24 Technical Support, 4 Years

Mac

Laptop & OS	Macbook Pro with OSX
Screen Size	15" Display
Processor	2.2GHz 6-Core Intel Core i7
Memory (RAM)	16 GB RAM
Hard Drive	256GB solid-state hard drive
Graphics Card	Radeon Pro 555X with 4GB RAM Recommended for Architecture BS and BDA: 2.6GHz 6-Core Intel i7 and Radeon Pro 560X with 4GB memory
Price & Location	UMN Bookstore - \$2249 UMN Bookstore - \$2599 Recommended optional upgrade for the School of Architecture also comes with 512GB solid-state hard drive
Tax	Students in an academic program that requires a laptop may purchase it tax-free from the UMN Bookstore.
Warranty	3-year or longer warranty including accidental damage protection. Available at the Bookstore for \$249 or \$299 for the upgraded Mac.

Accessories

Security Cable (Recommended - please note that this is not compatible with all Mac models)
Data backup to either external hard drive or cloud storage solution (Recommended)



Computer Requirements for Specific Academic Programs

The following academic programs require admitted students to purchase a laptop. Programs not listed below do not require a laptop.

Pre-Architecture & Architecture (BDA & BS)

- Laptop Required: PC or Mac*
- Adobe Creative Cloud (Required)
- Microsoft Office (Required)
- Rhinoceros (Required)
- 32GB USB drive (Recommended)

For students intending to pursue the BS Degree, software for Arch 3611 is required in the spring semester:

- SketchUp
- LightUp** (SketchUp PlugIn)
- Kerkythea** (SketchUp PlugIn)
- Autodesk AutoCAD**
- Autodesk Revit**
- Autodesk 3DS Max**

Interior Design

(Required after passing portfolio review)

- Laptop Required: PC or Mac*
- Adobe Creative Cloud (Required)
- Microsoft Office (Required)

Pre-Graphic Design

- Laptop Required: Mac Laptop
- Adobe Creative Cloud (Required)
- Microsoft Office (Recommended)

Pre-Product Design

- Laptop Required: PC or Mac*
- Adobe Creative Cloud (Required)
- Microsoft Office (Recommended)

Notes

- * See section below "[Considerations When Using a Mac Laptop](#)"
- ** Software listed runs on Windows OS only, or a version with reduced functionality is available for Mac OS

Considerations When Using a Mac Laptop

Impacts: Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design

Does Not Impact: Graphic Design

Some software (see list below) used in the academic programs for Architecture, Interior Design, and Product Design will only run on the Windows Operating System. We highly recommend running Windows on a PC in order to be able to use these software titles.

Although it is possible to run the Windows Operating System on a MacBook (via either BootCamp or Parallels), we cannot guarantee you will be able to run the software without difficulty. The upgraded MacBook Pro that we normally recommend for Architecture, Interior Design, and Product Design is built using a discrete graphics card that has not been validated by the various software companies. This means that they will not guarantee that the graphics card will be able to run their software without problems.

It may be true that you can the software without problems on Mac OSX/Bootcamp/Windows 7/8/10, but we can not guarantee this. You may still choose to run a Mac OS if you wish.

Software affected by this issue includes: AutoDesk Revit, AutoDesk 3DS Max, & Solidworks. SketchUp will work with the Graphics Card, but it is not recommended to run it via Bootcamp/Parallels.

Support

- Basic technology help is available via the UMN Technology Help Line at 612-301-4357, help@umn.edu, and at walk-in help centers. See <http://it.umn.edu/contact-us> for more information.
- The University of Minnesota Bookstore has an Apple Authorized Care Center that will service Macs as well as PCs.
- The College of Design does not offer IT/technical support for student-owned laptops or devices.

Questions?

Contact the computer lab manager, Greg Lockhart, at glockhar@umn.edu or 612-624-8633.