

Student Computer Minimum Specifications

College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Fall 2009

These are minimum requirements – in many cases, exceeding these specifications will be to your benefit:

The vendor that you choose should be able to work closely with you to answer specific questions pertaining to whether hardware *meets or exceeds* these minimum requirements.

In addition, please check with your specific department or program, as they may have additional recommendations or requirements.

PC vs. Mac

Some of the applications you will be using (such as AutoCAD) will only run on Windows. If you choose to purchase an Apple Macintosh (such as an iMac or MacBook Pro) you will be responsible for obtaining, licensing and properly configuring virtualization software (such as BootCamp, VMWare or Parallels) that will allow you to run Microsoft Windows.

Laptop vs. Desktop:

While some colleges/departments may require laptops, the cost of a workstation class laptop capable of running high-end graphic design software can be daunting. A computer that you purchase at the start of your program may not continue to meet the needs of software that you may use during the entire course of your studies. While it is important to note that a powerful laptop can provide you with mobility, in some cases, a desktop is an acceptable choice.

Operating System:

- Microsoft Windows XP Professional with Service Pack 3 or Windows Vista Ultimate or Business Edition with Service Pack 1 (***NOTE: Windows XP Home, Windows Media Center Edition, and Microsoft Windows Vista Home (any home version) are NOT acceptable.***)

-or-

- Mac OS X v10.5 or greater

Processor:

Intel® Core™2Duo 2.4 GHz or greater processor (or AMD equivalent)

Memory:

3 to 4 Gigabytes of RAM (32-bit OS may only address 3.25GB)

Hard Drive Space:

160 GB 7200 RPM SATA Hard Drive or greater

Optical Drive :

Multi-Format Double Layer DVD Writer (DVD-R/CD-RW)

Video/Graphics Adapter:

Must support hardware-accelerated OpenGL and/or Direct 3D – we recommend dedicated ATI Radeon® or NVidia GeForce® 512MB or greater. We do not recommend systems that use shared system memory or onboard graphics adapters.

Network Adapter:

1GB Ethernet Adapter

Wireless Adapter:

802.11a/g wireless networking card.

802.11a/b/g/n are also acceptable. Cards without 802.11a or b will only work with the latest wireless connections which may limit connectivity on public wireless networks.

External Hard Drive

We recommend that each student purchase an external hard drive for data backup and archiving. Your external drive should match or exceed the size of your internal drive to allow ample room for data backups.