The Art & Design Bring Your Own Device Program

Students enrolled in Art & Design studio courses that include creative software assignments must provide their own laptops. The Art & Design Department will provide required software through individual subscription licenses.

The Adobe Creative Suite, including Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Xd, and Acrobat, will be available to any student enrolled in a studio course. Interior Design-specific applications such as Sketchup, Enscape, and V-Ray will be provided to Interior Design students whose courses require them. AutoCAD and Revit are available directly from Autodesk at no cost for academic use.

It is important to understand how the operating systems used by personal computers (Windows) and Apple computers (Mac OS) impact application support. While Windows supports the Adobe Creative Suite and all Interior Design applications, Macs do not support Revit and V-Ray; and have limited compatibility with Enscape.

Interior Design students can use a Mac laptop for first year courses. Second through fourth year courses utilize Windows-only software and require students to bring PCs.

Choosing a computer that best serves your studio major courses is important from both an academic and career-development perspective. Art & Design Department faculty suggest the following.

Preferred Art & Design Laptops

If you are a **Graphic Design** or a **Studio Art** major, you can choose either a PC or a Mac. Apple is recognized as the industry standard for graphic designers.

If you are an **Interior Design** major, it is required that you choose a PC with a Windows operating system. Windows-based computers are the interior design industry standard. Apple computers with Mac operating systems cannot run Windows-only applications such as Revit, an essential program for interior designers.

Laptop Specifications for Windows and Mac

Windows Platform (for Interior Design, Graphic Design, and Studio Art Majors)

Windows laptops must meet or exceed the specifications listed below.

- Processor
    - Intel: 13th generation Core i7 or better
    - AMD: Ryzen 7 or better
- Memory: 32 GB or greater. Memory should be removable and upgradable.
- Operating System: Windows 11. Professional version is preferred; home version may be upgraded to Professional after purchase.
- Storage: 1 TB or greater SSD
- Display: 15 inches or larger, 1920 x 1080 Resolution

- Graphics card required. The cards listed below meet the requirement for applications used in Interior Design:

  - 8 GB VRAM minimum

  - Nvidia: GeForce RTX 3070 or better (gaming/general purpose), RTX A2000 or better (professional)

  - AMD: Not recommended, as Nvidia drivers have greater stability

- Audio: Built-in audio capabilities: Speaker/Microphone

- Webcam

- Network: Wireless (802.11a/b/g/n/ac): Dual Band (2.4 and 5.0 GHz)

- Expansion Ports: Two USB 3.0 and/or USB-C 3.1/3.2

Mac Platform (for Graphic Design and Studio Art Majors)

The Macintosh operating system is frequently updated. Students will have access to the latest updates as they become available.

- MacBook Pro is the preferred model. Either 14" or 16" screen size is appropriate.

- Processor: Apple Silicon M3 or better

- Memory: 16 GB unified or greater

- Operating System: mac OS 14 (Sonoma)

- Storage: 1 TB or greater

- Display: 14 inches or larger Liquid Retina XDR Display

- Audio: Built-in audio capabilities: Speaker/Microphone

- Webcam

- Network: Wireless (802.11a/b/g/n/ac): Dual Band (2.4 and 5.0 GHz)

- Expansion Ports: Two Thunderbolt / USB 4 ports, HDMI port, SDXC card slot, headphone jack, MagSafe 3 port

How to Check Your Computer's Specs

For a PC, check the specs by pressing the Windows logo key and Pause/Break key on your keyboard at the same time to open the System window. If your keyboard doesn't have a Pause/Break key, click the Start button and type "Control", click "Control Panel" in the search results, and click "System".

For a Mac, check the specs by clicking on the Apple menu icon in the upper-left corner of your screen and selecting "About This Mac". Click "More Info…" then "System Report" for more in-depth specs.