

TECHNOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Having a personal computer is virtually a necessity for today's college students. **The Department of Fine Arts recommends that incoming students purchase a laptop computer with appropriate software.** This allows students to work on their projects anytime, anywhere, rather than depending on access to computers in labs that are used for other classes and may not be available when the student has the time to work. Students become much more proficient with the software they use in the classroom when they have unlimited access via their own laptop.

In both the Communication Art & Design and Interior Architecture tracks, computers are used extensively. Courses in digital photography, digital printmaking, Web design and video, as well as some assignments in Foundations 2-D Design, rely on the use of the computer and various software as the tools to produce the art.

Apple MacBooks are the preferred platform for graphics application. In the Department of Fine Arts, Macs are the computer of choice. For the Interior Architecture program, either a Apple MacBook or a PC laptop are acceptable.

LAPTOPS

MAC platform recommendation

Apple MacBook Pro with the following minimum requirements:

- 2GB RAM
- USB or wireless mouse

MacBook Pros come with many standard features such as a built-in CD/DVD burner; Airport Extreme; FireWire port; full-size keyboard.

PC platform recommendation

Dell laptop (or comparable) with:

- Pentium 4 (or most recent) processor
- 100GB hard drive
- 2GB RAM
- 15-inch or larger screen
- CD burner & DVD player
- Wireless capability
- Virus protection (can be purchased from UofL IT)

Accessories, options

- USB storage device (also called flash drive, thumb drive, USB drive)
- Additional RAM
- Security lock and chain
- Protective case or backpack
- Screen sleeve or protector
- Extended warranty (AppleCare Protection Plan)
- Surge protector
- Inkjet printer

SOFTWARE

In addition to the hardware, the software packages recommended are:

- Adobe Creative Suite Premium, which includes Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Bridge and Acrobat Pro.
- Other program-specific software may be recommended for certain classes (Web Design, Video, Interior Architecture).

EDUCATIONAL PRICING

Educational pricing is available for most hardware and software, through a number of sources. You can check for educational pricing at:

- U of L's iTech Xpress store: <http://louisville.edu/it/services/software/> for admitted students
- the manufacturer's Web site;
- on-line educational distributors.

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