

School of Architecture and Design

Computer Policy

All second-year students in the School of Architecture and Design are required to provide their own personal computer. Additional requirements and recommendations for hardware and software are given below.

Computer use of some sort is required in most SOAD courses after first year. You can purchase your computer through many sources at educational discounts. Please make sure your computer meets the appropriate specifications before purchasing.

All computers bought must be able to run regular versions of software. Tablet computers, netbooks, chromebooks, etc. that cannot run a full Windows or Macintosh Operating System and cannot install regular software will not be adequate.

Both **Macintosh** and **Windows** platforms are supported in the school. All Architecture and Design students will be required to run some Windows-based software from third year onwards. This should be accomplished using [BootCamp](#) with Windows on an Apple hardware platform. More information on using Autodesk software with a Mac can be found [at this link from the Autodesk website](#), on [this blog post highlighting the possible issues](#), and elsewhere. Please do some research and make an informed decision before you purchase either a Mac or a PC.

ADDITIONAL ADVICE:

The longer you wish to keep this machine viable, the higher (and more expensive) you will likely wish to configure it. Processor, RAM, and hard drive capacities double about every 18 months (Moore's Law). After two-three years, your machine may be noticeably slower than the newer ones. Purchasing a higher-end model will make your computer stay competitive longer. This of course means more money up front. A good general rule is to buy the most powerful machine that you can reasonably afford if speed and longevity are factors for you.

COMPONENTS	WINDOWS LAPTOP	MACINTOSH LAPTOP
CPU (Processor) or Model	Any model using Intel Core i5 or i7 or equivalent processor	MacBook Pro
System RAM	4 GB minimum (8GB or more preferred)	4 GB minimum (8GB or more preferred)
Hard Drive (Storage)	500 GB SSD or 750 GB/7200 RPM minimum, more preferred	500 GB SSD or 750 GB/7200 RPM minimum, more preferred
Monitor	15" preferred	15" preferred
Video Adapter (Graphics Card)	512 MB VRAM minimum, more preferred	512 MB VRAM minimum, more preferred
Operating System	Windows 7 or later, Professional, 64-bit	Mac OS X Maverick or later
Sound Card	100% Windows compliant sound card	Built-in
Connectivity	Wireless Internet Access Card (comes standard on most laptops)	Wireless Internet Access Card (built in)

External Hard

Drive for Back-ups An external drive at least as large as your computer's internal drive for backing up your computer.

Warranty Service Minimum 3-year onsite parts and labor (highly recommended) 3-year AppleCare Protection Plan (highly recommended)

Software Requirements:

Most of this software has free versions and educational discounts. Additional software may be required for certain courses.

Second Year Software Requirements for Architecture and Design Students:

- [Microsoft Office 2010](#) or later (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Latest version of [Sketchup Make](#) (free version, Sketchup Pro not required)
- Adobe Acrobat, Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign CS5 or later OR Adobe Creative Cloud subscription. Adobe Elements software will not be adequate.

Adobe Creative Suite is available in several different bundles. "[Creative Suite Design Standard](#)" is a good fit for most design students. It includes InDesign, Acrobat, Illustrator, and Photoshop. Other bundles are available. [Adobe Creative Cloud](#) is a subscription that gives you license to use the latest versions of all Adobe programs for a monthly fee.

Architecture Specific Software:

- **Autodesk Revit** (free for students) – required for 4th year

Industrial Design Specific Software:

- Rhino5 required for 2nd year – Rhino has historically been a windows specific program, however, Rhino for Mac is currently being developed. The beta of this version is currently free for the time being.
- Solidworks required for 3rd year
- KeyShot required for 3rd year

Interior Design Specific Software:

- Autodesk Revit (free for students) – required for 4th year
- Autodesk AutoCAD (free for students) – required for 4th year

*** **Bootcamp** and Windows7 or later Pro, will be necessary to run this software on a Mac.

Suggested Peripherals:

Along with your laptop, there are other helpful items which you should consider purchasing, though they are not required.

- Mouse with scroll wheel (wireless or wired)
- 16 GB USB flash drive
- 8 megapixel or higher camera