

Computer Policy

Introduction

Over the past two decades, technology has had a major impact on the profession of interior design. The Interior Design program is committed to the integration of computers throughout the design curriculum. Each student in the interior design program is required to purchase a laptop computer capable of using the latest versions of AutoCAD, Revit, Enscape, Google SketchUp, Adobe Suite and Microsoft Office. We start using computers your freshman year.

Where to Purchase

As a student at SFA, you are eligible to purchase a computer from any vendor/supplier you choose. The Interior Design program is a PC advocate, although AutoCAD is compatible with a MAC OS, Revit is not. Please do NOT purchase a MAC. Also, there are some features in the PC version of AutoCAD that are not available in the MAC version which could create issues when trying to create drawings.

It is not recommended that you utilize a MAC for AutoCAD. The laptop you purchase is required to have 3 HDMI connections. We have also determined that purchasing a gaming computer as an option, with a Intel 7 processor.

Insurance

Speak to your insurance agent about insuring your computer. Some insurance companies will include your computer under renter's insurance. If you or your parents have a homeowner's insurance policy, you may be able to insure your computer with an optional rider.

Minimum Requirements:

Intel i-Series, Xeon, AMD Ryzen, Ryzen Threadripper PRO. 2.5 GHz or Higher.(ARM not supported)

16gb RAM

2 GB GPU with 29 GB/s Bandwidth and DirectX 11 compliant and 24-bit color

30GB SSD (required)

Recommended:

Intel i-Series, Xeon, AMD Ryzen, Ryzen Threadripper PRO. 2.5 GHz or Higher.

32gb RAM

8 GB GPU with 106 GB/s Bandwidth and DirectX 12 compliant and 24-bit color

30GB SSD (required)

AutoCAD 2024

<https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdarticles/sfdarticles/System-requirements-for-AutoCAD-2025-including-Specialized-Toolsets.html>

Revit 2024:

<https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdarticles/sfdarticles/System-requirements-for-Revit-2025-products.html>

Still need help deciding? Here are a few recommendations.

Good:

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/shop/dell-computer-laptops/g15-gaming-laptop/spd/g-series-15-5535-laptop/useghbts5535hbnw?ref=variantstack>

Better:

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/shop/dell-computer-laptops/new-inspiron-16-plus/spd/inspiron-16-7640-laptop/useichbts7640hbbl?ref=variantstack>

Required: Upgrade the video card to NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4050 (\$1,599)

Recommended: Upgrade the RAM to 32GB (\$1,799)

Best:

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/shop/dell-computer-laptops/precision-7780-workstation/spd/precision-17-7780-laptop/s002p7780usvp?view=configurations>

Dell has 5% discount if a student registers their .edu as a student. Asus, HP, Acer, Lenovo and Microsoft all make quality laptops.

