

Overview:

Auburn University's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture is committed to providing advanced educational facilities and experiences for students in preparation for professional life, both inside and outside of traditional design and planning practices. To provide the level of digital input technologies that professional education demands, students are required to purchase a laptop computer along with a suite of software that coordinates with both studio and classroom instruction upon entry to the second year of the Architecture program. Students entering the Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Design Build programs are required to have a laptop along with a suite of software that coordinates with both studio and classroom instruction upon entering the program.

A "Paradigmatic Approach" to the delivery of digital media is practiced in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture. Rather than focusing on how a task is accomplished, we are more interested in why it is approached in a certain way. Attached is a list of hardware and mainstream software that are required, the list is not exhaustive, nor is it expected that the required software will be the only software that you will utilize during your course of study - your interests may dictate the use and acquisition tools and software outside of the mainstream.

The school is primarily a Windows environment, but most other Operating Systems, such as, Mac OS X, are welcome and will be treated the same as Windows based computers. Many students and faculty use Apple computers running the Macintosh OS. Macintosh computers are compatible with CAD's Windows environment with only (at most) a few minor incompatibility problems. You can set your Macintosh to boot both OS X as well as a Windows 7 to overcome most compatibility problems. Access to network resources like network shares will be available to all common Operating Systems. However, certain mainstream applications are only available for the Windows operating system*.

**Students who elect to use an operating system other than Windows will be responsible for providing and maintaining these alternative applications.*

Computer Labs

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture maintains a computer lab that serves as instructional spaces. The lab computers are also utilized for specialty software (simulation software, and rendering programs). Additionally the school will loan specialty software via the use of a virtual machine (VMware**) that will be loaded onto your laptop for the duration of the course requiring its use.

***Use of school provided VMware is contingent upon your laptop meeting the minimum hardware requirements. Additionally use of VMware is only supported in a native Windows environment.*

Peripherals

High-end color printers and plotters are located the building near studios. Scanners, comprised of regular, wide, and large format, are available for student use. The Library of Architecture Design and Construction (LADC) has digital and A/V equipment for checkout. The shop is equipped with three laser cutters, one cnc router, and dedicated computers for running the equipment.

Hardware Requirements:

When selecting the hardware specifications for your laptop, consider that the minimum hardware spec (outlined below) should get you 2-3 years of reliable service. We have found that students either get the minimum spec and plan to replace it after 3 years (at which point a new computer at the same price range is certain to have a significantly more robust spec) or they opt for a top end spec that can serve for the duration of their study.

ALWAYS REQUEST EDUCATIONAL/STUDENT PRICING.

When you are purchasing your computer, consider a cable lock (laptops have a lock slot that allows them to be secured to objects such as a table or desk). Also, think about a backup system and routine for your files - a large-format external media device (500 GB or larger external hard drive) is important. It is also useful to have a portable flash/jump drive for quick file transfers. Finally, although not required, it is highly recommended that an extended warranty be purchased along with the laptop.

PC A *minimum* hardware spec for a PC with which you should be able to get 2-3 years of reliable service might include the following:

- Windows 7
- 2GHz Dual Core Processor
- 8GB of RAM
- 1GB video card.
- 15" monitor
- 500GB, 7200RPM Hard Drive.
- Wireless G/N.
- DVD Burner

Apple A *minimum* hardware spec for an Apple with which you should be able to get 2-3 years of reliable service might include the following:

- OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard)
- 2.4GHz Processor
- 8GB of RAM
- 1GB video card
- 15" monitor
- 500GB, 7200RPM hard drive
- Airport for Wireless Connectivity
- DVD Burner

ARCHITECTURE

Software Requirements:

As with Hardware, the School will encourage Software Paradigms that reflect those used in practice. It is expected that you have software for each of the categories below installed on your Laptop. Program Specific Course Syllabi will detail software requirements for the course.

The software indicated in **bold text** is the industry standard and represents software you are likely to use in practice. The software indicated in *italicized text* is comparable to the industry standard. Some of the listed software is freeware (with limited support) and is included for reference.

Additionally, it is recommended that you install antivirus software on your laptop – there are great ones out there that are free.

ALWAYS REQUEST EDUCATIONAL/STUDENT PRICING.

Using the AU Bookstore or online vendors, students can get top-shelf software from each category for around \$400. All Autodesk software is free for educational use on a yearly renewable license, Adobe Design Standard Suite \$199, Rhino \$195, SketchUp pro \$50 (yearly renewal).

Office Suite

Microsoft Office (word, excel, power point)

iWork (pages, numbers, keynote)

Open Office

Conceptual Modeling

Google SketchUp pro

Rhino

3D Studio Max

Blender

Modeling and Documentation

Autodesk AutoCAD

Microstation

VectorWorks

Building Information Modeling

Autodesk Revit

Archicad

Bentley Architecture V8i

Analysis

Autodesk Ecotect

Autodesk Vasari

IES

Raster Image Manipulation

Adobe Photoshop CS6

Fireworks

GiMP

Electronic Publishing/Graphics

Adobe Illustrator CS6

Adobe InDesign CS6

Adobe Acrobat Professional

Freehand

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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Office Suite

Microsoft Office (word, excel, power point)
iWork (pages, numbers, keynote)
Open Office

Conceptual Modeling

Google SketchUp pro
Rhino
3D Studio Max
Blender

Geographic Information and Mapping

ArcGIS (not compatible with Apple Macs) (free to students)

Modeling and Documentation

Autodesk AutoCAD
Microstation
VectorWorks

Raster Image Manipulation

Adobe Photoshop CS6
Fireworks
GIMP

Electronic Publishing/Graphics

Adobe Illustrator CS6
Adobe InDesign CS6
Adobe Acrobat Professional
Freehand

Video Editing

Adobe Premier
Final Cut
i movie
Corell Video Studio
Windows Movie Maker

PLANNING

Software Requirements:

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Using the AU Bookstore or an online vendor students can get top-shelf software from each category for around \$400. ArcGIS is available for free at Auburn University libraries, Adobe Design Standard Suite \$199, and SketchUp pro \$50 (yearly renewal).

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iWork (pages, numbers, keynote)
Open Office

Conceptual Modeling

Google SketchUp pro

Geographic Information and Mapping

ArcGIS (not compatible with Apple Macs) (free to students)

Analysis

Excel
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Raster Image Manipulation

Adobe Photoshop CS6
Fireworks
Inkpad
GiMP

Electronic Publishing/Graphics

Adobe Acrobat Professional
Adobe Illustrator CS6
Adobe InDesign CS6
Freehand