



Computers should be acquired before classes start. There will be a **mandatory software installation workshop** for incoming students during K Week in the Fall of 2021.

Before purchasing your laptop, please email the specifications of the computer you are considering to our Director of IT Joe Brewer at joe.brewer@uky.edu for recommendations and consultation.

The College of Design requires all students to have a laptop to be able to do their work within their studio classes with the following

Minimum Requirements:

- 64-bit Intel® Core i7 or i9, 2.6 GHz or greater speed
- 64-bit Microsoft® Windows 10 Pro or OS X v10.15.1 or later (NO Windows 8 or Home versions)
- 32GB of Ram or better. 64GB highly recommended
- 1TB Hard Drive or larger
- 1680 by 1050 display resolution minimum
- Dedicated Graphics Card with 4GB memory minimum (8GB recommended)
- Wireless Network Card
- 2 Button Mouse with scroll wheel required, 3 Button Programmable Mouse preferred

Some *examples* of current systems that will work for our program (for a discussion on Mac vs. Windows, please refer to page 2 of this document):

Apple MacBook Pro 16" Touch Bar, 2.3GHz 8-core 9th-generation Intel Core i9 processor, AMD Radeon Pro 5500M with 4GB of GDDR6 memory, 32GB 2666MHz DDR4 memory, 1TB SSD storage

MSI GT76 Titan Laptop – 15" 4K Screen, 3.6-GHz Intel Core i9-9900K processor, 64GB RAM, 128GB M.2 SATA + 1TB, Nvidia GeForce RTX 2080 GPU with 8GB of VRAM, 512GB NVMe PCIe SSDs; a 1TB, 7,200-rpm hard drive

ASUS ROG G703 Gaming Laptop - Intel® Core™ i9-9980HKNVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 2080 (Boost Clock: 1880MHz, 200W) 8GB GDDR6 VRAM, 64GB RAM, 3 X 512GB SSD, 17.3" Full HD Display

Other Equipment: A minimum 32GB flash drive or external hard drive is required. A separate backup hard drive is highly recommended to have and leave at your home (1 terabyte minimum). Please backup weekly. A printer is recommended but not required as there are Black & White and Color printers available in most of the campus computing labs for a small printing fee. The Pence Hall Computing Lab is equipped with wide format plotters for studio printing projects. A large external monitor is also recommended but not required for home or studio use. Never keep your backup drive and your computer in your backpack or studio at the same time. Hard Drives can crash resulting in lost work; backing up your data is an essential practice. Students also have access to unlimited storage space on Microsoft and Google Cloud Drives.

Software we use: Please do not purchase software before checking with our IT staff or your Professors to get the best price. Many of these packages are available for free or reduced price through the University or the manufacturer. We currently use Microsoft Office, Autodesk AutoCAD, Autodesk Revit, Rhinoceros 3D, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Acrobat, Adobe InDesign, and Google Sketchup. Other programs may be used in specific studios or by specific faculty members.

Useful Links:

College of Design: <http://design.uky.edu>

Software Purchase: <http://novedge.com>

Autodesk: <https://www.autodesk.com/education/home>

Software Downloads: <http://download.uky.edu>

Apple: <http://apple.com>

Rhino (modeling software): <http://www.rhino3d.com>

Adobe: <http://www.adobe.com>

UK Digital Store: <http://www.uky.edu/ebuy>



Macintosh (Apple) vs. PC: Many design students have a difficult time deciding whether to buy a MacBook Pro or a PC laptop. This difficulty is understandable because there is no clear-cut answer. The College of Design does not prefer one system over the other. Like most major purchasing decisions, there are pros and cons to both choices.

Apple

Pros

- Apple computers have a much better build quality than their PC counterparts.
- The hardware has fewer issues every year.
- Apple provides excellent customer support.
 - o There are two Apple stores in Lexington including one on campus in the Student Center.
- Most of our faculty and technology staff use Apple computers.
- Higher retention value.
- Can be configured to run Windows software as well. *

Cons

- You can expect to spend around \$1,000 more on an Apple laptop when compared to the Windows equivalent.
- Additional steps necessary to partition and install Windows on your computer in order to run all the required software. Because of this, you may want to have a larger hard drive since partitioning it for two OS's will divide available space for each (consult the IT staff on how much space to designate to each OS). *

Note:

** Current Mac computers will run both the OSX & Windows Operating Systems and can be used in all our classes. They can be partitioned and configured to run a software called Bootcamp which runs the Windows OS as well as any PC and this can also be supplemented with the programs Parallels or VMware Fusion to run directly through the Mac OS. Help with setting this up can be provided by our IT staff at the beginning of every semester. There are many online tutorials as well.*

PC

Pros

- Significant value relative to their performance.
- Numerous PC manufacturers with countless models that are appropriate for our program.
 - o This makes it easier to find a lower purchase price when compared to Apple's single-source sales model.
- All of our required programs are compatible with a Windows computer.
- Savings in initial cost would be useful for the purchase of a personal 3d printer or other equipment on the optional list of supplies that are really beneficial to your work and will likely save you money and increase your productivity over time.

Cons

- The existence of numerous brands and models mean that build quality and software integration varies wildly.
- A byproduct of this variation is that some Windows computers have a higher fault-rate and are more difficult to troubleshoot than other Windows computers.
- There is a great disparity in how much a Windows computer depreciates.
 - o Some models can lose as much as 90% of their purchase value within the first year.

We are happy to expand on the pros and cons of both systems and help guide your purchase decision. While we can't recommend a specific brand or laptop, we will provide you with all the information available for each system. **Before purchasing your laptop, please email the specifications of the computer you are considering to our Director of IT Joe Brewer at joe.brewer@uky.edu for recommendations and consultation.**