

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This document provides guidance on computer (hardware and software) requirements and recommendations for landscape architecture students. Students are required to have a computer in the first semester of the second year of study. If you decide to purchase a new computer for your freshman year, please follow these same recommendations to ensure you have an adequate computer for all semesters of the program.

DESKTOP VS. LAPTOP

A desktop has a better performance for the price and is upgradeable.

A laptop is flexible. You can have it with you all the time in a computer lab, school, outdoors, field trips, or home. With either laptop or desktop an external monitor is recommended.

ACCESSORIES

- Webcam
- Surge protector
- 8GB USB flash drive
- External monitor >15"
- 1TB external drive

WINDOWS VS. MACINTOSH OS X

Some of the software you will need will not run on a Macintosh OS X. If you decide to get on **Apple Macintosh** you will need to use a **Boot-Camp** option to be able to run both Apple and Windows in your computer.

YEAR	HARDWARE	SOFTWARE	LICENSE
1st YEAR	Bring what you have Plus tablet and digital pen	Microsoft 365 Google Earth Procreate Trace Sketchbook	Free Free \$20 \$20 Free
2nd YEAR	Purchase a computer if you do not have one that meets recommended specifications. A 'gaming computer' preferred. It will be suitable for all semesters. Optional but recommended: additional monitor + external drive to backup your work.	Microsoft 365 Autodesk - AutoCAD Adobe Creative Cloud Adobe Pro InDesign Illustrator Photoshop Premiere SketchUp Studio Educational Lumion Educational Land FX	Free Free Free \$55/yr Free
3rd YEAR		ArcGIS Autodesk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revit ● Civil 3D ● 3DS Max Rhinoceros ● <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Optional software 	Free Free Free Free \$195
4th YEAR		All of the required software listed above.	

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

- 64-bit Operating System (Windows 10, Mac OSX 10.13+)
- Quad Core or better Processor (Intel i5, i7 series, AMD Ryzen)
- 16GB of RAM or more (64GB or more if expecting to create very detailed high-end renderings using software like Lumion)
- Solid State (flash) storage, 256GB+
- Discrete graphics card with 6GB or more of video memory (11GB or more if expecting to create very detailed high-end renderings using software like Lumion)

MacBook Pro line does meet a lot of the requirements, but you will likely have to install Windows 10 on the device (using a free tool provided by apple called Boot Camp) to use all software required during your degree work in Landscape Architecture. If you wish to preserve your Mac portion of the hard drive and switch between both operating systems, you will need to buy a Macbook with larger internal storage (at least 500GB).

Any 'gaming' computer will perform the tasks required by your coursework in Landscape Architecture, and an adequately powerful machine will be suitable for all semesters of your degree program.

Good 'out of the box' brands and lines of laptops are:

- MSI Stealth
- Dell G5 series
- Asus ROG, TUF series
- Razer Laptops
- Lenovo Legion
- Acer Helios or Predator lines
- Some high-end Surface Book models
- Higher end Macbook Pros
- Alienware
- HP Omen

You should expect to pay around \$800-1600 for a good 'gaming' laptop. These are often heavier and have worse battery life than standard laptops because of the higher level of performance and power offered.

Desktops offer a better price-to-performance ratio than any laptop. Students further in their degree programs may consider purchasing or building their own desktops for use in the studio space. The same general computing requirements apply. When in doubt, more is better on all component areas.

Additional information on software:

- **Adobe Creative Cloud.** <https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud.html>

- **Autodesk.** <https://www.autodesk.com>

- **SketchUp Pro.** <https://help.sketchup.com/en/sketchup/system-requirements>

- **Lumion.** <https://lumion.com/requirements.html>

Lumion Desktop Computer Recommendation.

<https://support.lumion.com/hc/en-us/articles/360003476813-Which-laptop-PCs-do-you-recommend->

Lumion Laptop Computer Recommendation.

<https://lumion.com/blog/lumion-computer-advice-for-faster-3d-rendering.html>