Department of Landscape Architecture COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

Minimum Performance-Based Specification for Student Computer Purchases

* First Year CAP students are not required to purchase a computer

Laptop Recommendations - PC	
Screen	15.6-inch TFT Active Matrix/HD/LCD Panel
Processor	Intel Core i7, 2.4GHz or better (quad-core preferred)
Memory	8GB RAM
System Graphics	1GB Graphics Memory (discrete/dedicated video RAM)
Hard Drive	500GB Hard Drive (7200rpm preferred)
Optical Drive	DVD Writer
Operating System	Windows 7 Professional 64-bit
Ethernet	10/100/1000 Ethernet
Wireless	Integrated 802.11n (a/b/g compatible)
Printer	Optional

Laptop Recommendations - MacOS		
Screen	15.4-inch MacBook Pro	
Processor	Intel Core i7, 2.4GHz or better (quad-core preferred)	
Memory	8GB RAM	
System Graphics	1GB Graphics Memory (discrete/dedicated video RAM)	
Hard Drive	500GB Hard Drive (7200rpm preferred)	
Optical Drive	8x SuperDrive (DVD+/-RW/CD-RW)	
Operating System	MAC OS X Lion (or most current)	
Ethernet	10/100/1000 Ethernet	
Wireless	Integrated 802.11n (a/b/g compatible)	
Printer	Optional	

Hardware and Software Recommendations *		
Insurance Protection / Service Support Plans / Extended Warranty		
Microsoft Office Professional (2010 or higher)		
Adobe CS6 Design Prem (InDesign,Photoshop,Illustrator,Flash,Acrobat Pro, etc.)		
CAD software: AutoCAD 2012 (or higher), Vectorworks 2010 (or higher)		
3D Modeling software (Autodesk Viz, Autodesk Maya, Rhinoceros, 3D Studio Max, etc.) **		
Internet Access: Explorer, Netscape, Firefox		
Virus Protection: Norton Anti-Virus (available FREE through BSU)		
20' CAT6 RJ45 network cable		
Cable lock (targus defcon cl cable lock or equal)		

*Software applications are basic to the LA program. Computers and software are available through the BSU Computer Store (RB134B, computerstore@bsu.edu, 765-285-4104) at significant discounts to students; please contact them for more information. You may also contact BSU Unified Technology Support (765-285-8984) for other technology-related inquiries. Academic versions of the CAD/modeling software can be purchased through JourneyEd.com, Studica.com, or other online retailers at discount rates. Computer manufacturers may offer good deals to students (e.g., discounts, financing, lease options).

Notes:

Suggested upgrades and other considerations:

- Increase memory (system RAM) if possible; purchase the maximum available/affordable
- Increase system graphics memory if possible
- Upgrade processor and GHz speed if possible
- Increase screen size to 17" or larger to maximize display area for graphics & multi-tasking; decrease screen size to maximize portability (not recommended)
- USB 2.0 flash drive (16GB capacity or greater)
- External hard drive (500GB+, USB pocket size)
- Increase hard drive capacity
- Bluetooth 2.1 wireless
- Integrated mobile broadband (AT&T, Verizon, etc.)
- · Extra laptop battery
- 11"x17" color printer
- Mac users should consider purchasing Parallels Desktop (or similar) to also run PC applications.
- You are strongly encouraged to purchase additional (3-4 years) warranty/service/support and accidental damage protection for your hardware.
- *Software available at the BSU Computer Store:
 Windows Operating System (±\$27.00)
 Mac Operating System (±\$29.00)
 Adobe CS6 Design Premium (±\$330.00)
 Microsoft Office Professional (±\$27.00)
 Anti-virus software (free!)
- **A variety of CAD options are available, each with differing 2D & 3D features/capabilities. Currently, AutoCAD is taught across our curricula. However, students are not discouraged to explore and apply additional CAD, graphic, and modeling tools which might best support their own design methods/interests.