Recommendations for Laptop Hardware + Software / Academic Year 2013-2014

Specifications – Laptop PC

Screen	15" or 17"
Processor	2.5 GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, or faster
RAM Memory	8 GB of RAM or higher
Internal Hard Drive	750 GB (external hard drive is recommended for backup)
Graphics Card	1GB VRAM minimum (more memory and performance capability is recommended). MUST support OpenGL graphics
Wireless Card	Built-in default wireless
DVD-ROM	Reads and writes DVDs and CDs
CD –ROM	CD R/RW (if no DVD drive, see above)
Operating System	Windows 8 Professional 64-bit
System Type	64-bit
Ethernet Cable	CAT 5 cable (6'– 10' length)

Specifications – Laptop MAC

Screen	13", 15" or 17" MacBook Pro
Processor	2.5 GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 or faster
Memory	4 GB of RAM or higher
Internal Hard Drive	500 GB or higher (external hard drive is recommended for backup)
Graphics Card	Default option
Wireless Card	Built in Airport Extreme Wireless
DVD-ROM & CD-ROM	Default Optical
Operating System	Latest Mac OS version (i.e. Mountain Lion) + Boot camp partition with Windows 8. Using the free Boot camp partition is highly recommended over purchasing virtual windows software, due to performance
Ethernet Cable	CAT 5 cable (6'– 10' length)

Software

Microsoft.-	Office: Word, Excel, Power Point. Available through BSU Technology Store (Tech Center BL 103)
Adobe.-	Creative Suite: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Dreamweaver and Acrobat Pro. Available through BSU Technology Store (Tech Center BL 103)
McNeel.-	Rhino 5.0, Educational Version. http://www.rhino3d.com/sales/?Region=NA
Autodesk.-	Design Review. Free download from: http://usa.autodesk.com/design-review/
	3DS Max or 3DS Max Design. Free download after registration in Autodesk Education Community (http://students.autodesk.com/) from: http://students.autodesk.com/?nd=download_center
	AutoCAD Architecture. Free download after registration in Autodesk Education Community (http://students.autodesk.com/) from: http://students.autodesk.com/?nd=download_center
Windows Media Player.-	(or similar for avi and .mov playback)
Fetch.-	File Transfer Protocol client for Mac users, follow instructions in this link: https://apps.bsu.edu/Login/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fsoftwaredownload%2fFetch%2fDefault.aspx If you are a Windows user, you can use Internet Explorer to publish your files.

Other additional software (i.e. plugins) may be specified accordingly by instructors during the fall semester.

Storage

Students have access to 4GB total of online storage and FTP web space; see BSU ilocker (https://ilocker.bsu.edu/) and BSU iweb (http://www.bsu.edu/iweb). Additionally, a flash drive is recommended, as well as burnable CDs. An external hard drive is recommended for backup.

Notes Regarding Use of Computers in CAP and Architecture Curricula and When to Buy a Laptop

The first course requiring a laptop with the above software is ARCH263, taken by architecture students in the fall of their second year. Prior to this, during the extent of the CAP first year, personal computers are not mandatory. During first year, students may use older laptops with basic functionality or use the computer labs in the university libraries for computer work. However, many students and parents may wish to purchase computers prior to first year. Those doing so should consider that these computer recommendations may change prior to the student's second year, but historically these revisions have been minor. Current retail trends for laptops indicate as well that computer capabilities will change very little from year to year while prices will continue to fall slightly for the same products. You may take this into consideration if you decide to make an early purchase.

Student Responsibility for Computers, Software, and Maintenance

It is the responsibility of the student to purchase, set up, and maintain their laptops and software required for their coursework. There are resources available on campus to assist students with computer-related technical issues; however students must take provisions to back up their work and seek out alternatives in the event that their computer fails, must be shipped for repair, is lost, or stolen. Specific computing policies are addressed individually by faculty in their respective syllabi.

Note to Mac users

Mac users are also responsible for setting up and maintaining a configuration for running PC-only programs on their Macs. Rhino 3D modeling software as well as all Autodesk products (AutoCAD, 3ds MAX, etc.) are PC/Windows only programs. You may run them on a Mac using a special set up referred to as Boot Camp that assigns part of a Mac computer's hard disk to host Windows operating system along with a separate file structure associated with it. This is a technically intensive setup that may be challenging to those unfamiliar with computers and software configuration —although on-campus resources are available to assist students with this procedure, students are advised to consider this point in the event that they elect to use Macs. Other options to Boot Camp include a variety of PC emulators: programs that run in the Mac operating system and within these programs will run PC-based software. This is an easier setup but is generally **not recommended** by software producers and carries with it some performance compromises.

Special questions or concerns may be forwarded to Antonieta Angulo aangulo@bsu.edu