Computer Recommendations

DEA recommends that all undergraduate students have a personal laptop computer powerful enough to support the computational requirements necessary for course work, as well as adequate storage to accommodate new software releases. Most students will build digital portfolios; render using Rhino, 3D Studio Max and Revit, in addition to writing papers and email. The College of Human Ecology provides and maintains two high-end computer labs for classes, but is moving steadily toward a mobile computing environment.

Below are the recommended laptop specifications and required software for the 2015-2016 academic year:

- Intel i7 Quad Core processor
- Windows 7 - x64 or 8 - x64
- Minimum 8GB of RAM
- Dedicated video processor (2GB video RAM recommended, 1GB minimum) should be one of the following or greater: NVIDIA® Quadro® K2100M/K1100M, Nvidia GeForce 750M, AMD FirePro M4000 Mobility Pro
- Minimum 500GB hard drive
- Gigabit Ethernet
- Wireless Ethernet (802.11 g/n)
- Three-year warranty (recommended)
- Theft and damage insurance (recommended)
- Total estimated cost: $1,650–$2,500 for the recommended Standard Dell Precision or Lightweight Dell Precision

Specialty applications needed for the academic program are provided for students through on-premises Computer Aided Design labs and a remote access system compatible with Windows, Linux and Macintosh computers. This includes Adobe Creative Suite (on-premises only), Sketch Up Pro, AutoCAD, 3DS Max, Revit, and more (on-premises and remotely).

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