



College of Human Ecology

Computer Recommendations

D+EA recommends that 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 current recommended laptop specifications and requirements:

The [Cornell Campus Store](#) provides laptops at a discounted rate that meet the specs below. The store offers both [Windows-based laptops](#) and [Macintosh laptops](#).

- Intel i7 Quad Core processor
- Windows 10 x 64
- 16GB of RAM
- Dedicated video processor should be one of the following or greater: NVIDIA® Quadro® K2100M/K1100M/M1000M, Nvidia Geforce 950M, 1050 M, AMD Radeon R9 M370X, Radeon Pro 555/560, AMD FirePro M4000 Mobility Pro
- 500GB hard drive (SSD hard drive preferred)
- Wireless Ethernet (at least 802.11 g/n)
- Three-year warranty (recommended)
- Theft and damage insurance (recommended)
- Total estimated cost: \$1,740 for the lightweight Dell Precision 15 5510/20, or \$1,765 for the heavier Dell Precision 15 7510/20 with the above specs. Models and high-definition (retina) displays are available as an add-on for \$300 more.

Note: We can only recommend the highest end model of Macbook Pro, the 15" version with an AMD Radeon Pro 555/560 video card. The other models come equipped with an onboard chip that is considerably less powerful than the 555/560.

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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Updated 7/6/17