

**Department of Landscape Architecture**  
 AB 226, COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING  
 BALL STATE UNIVERSITY  
 765-285-1971

**Minimum Performance-Based Specification for Student Computer Purchases**

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

<b>Laptop Recommendations - PC</b>	
Screen	15.6" Ultra Sharp FHD/UHD/LED Panel
Processor	Intel Xeon or Core i7 (2.8GHz quad-core or better)
Memory	16GB RAM or more
System Graphics	4GB Graphics Memory (discrete/dedicated video RAM)
Hard Drive	512GB Hard Drive (SSD strongly recommended)
Optical Drive	DVD Writer (optional)
Operating System	Windows 10 Pro (or most current) 64-bit
Ethernet	10/100/1000 Ethernet
Wireless	Integrated 802.11ac + Bluetooth 4.2 (or better)
Printer	Optional

<b>Laptop Recommendations - macOS</b>	
Screen	15" MacBook Pro
Processor	Intel Core i7 (2.9GHz quad-core or better)
Memory	16GB RAM or more
System Graphics	4GB Graphics Memory (discrete/dedicated video RAM)
Hard Drive	512GB Hard Drive (SSD strongly recommended)
Optical Drive	USB SuperDrive (or external DVD writer, optional)
Operating System	macOS High Sierra (or most current)
Ethernet	10/100/1000 Ethernet
Wireless	Integrated 802.11ac + Bluetooth 4.2 (or better)
Printer	Optional

<b>Hardware and Software Recommendations *</b>	
Insurance Protection / Service Support Plans / Extended Warranty	
Microsoft Office Professional (2016 or higher)	
Adobe Creative Cloud (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Acrobat Pro, Flash Pro, After Effects, etc.)	
CAD software: AutoCAD 2018 (or higher), Vectorworks 2017 (or higher)	
3D Modeling software (Autodesk Revit, Maya, Civil 3D; SketchUp; Rhino; 3ds Max, etc.)**	
Internet Access: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, etc.	
Virus Protection: Norton Anti-Virus, or Sophos Endpoint (available FREE through BSU)	
20' CAT6 RJ45 or better Ethernet/network cable (for faster wired internet connections)	
Cable lock (targus defcon or similar; to secure your hardware when stationary)	

**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
- USB 3.0 flash drive (128GB or larger)
- External hard drive (1TB+ SSD, USB pocket size)
- Increase on-board hard drive capacity
- Web cam (integrated or external)
- Integrated mobile broadband (AT&T, Verizon, etc.)
- Extra laptop battery
- Touchscreen and/or pen-enabled tablet can be useful
- 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 10 Operating System (±\$27.00)  
 Mac Operating System (±\$27.00)  
 Adobe Creative Cloud (±\$20.00/month)  
 Microsoft Office Professional (±\$27.00)  
 Anti-virus software (free)
- \*Autodesk AutoCAD is available free to students @ <http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/all>
- \*\*A variety of CAD options are available, each with differing 2D & 3D features/capabilities. Currently, AutoCAD is taught and used across our curriculum. However, students are welcome to explore and apply additional CAD, representation, and modeling tools which might best support their own design methods/interests.

\*Software applications are basic to the LA program, much like traditional course textbooks. Computers and software are available through the BSU Technology Store at significant discounts to students; please contact them for more information (Tech Center BL 103, <http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/technologystore>, 765-285-4104). You may also contact BSU Unified Technology Support Tech Center (765-285-8324) 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