

Department of Landscape Architecture

AB 226, R. WAYNE ESTOPINAL COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
765-285-1971

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Minimum Performance-Based Specification for Student Computer Purchases

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

Laptop Recommendations - PC / Windows	
Screen	15.6" 3.5K OLED, UHD+, or better
Processor	Intel Xeon or Core i7 (12th gen), 4.7GHz 12-core (or better)
Memory	16GB RAM, minimum
System Graphics	4GB Graphics Memory (dedicated/discrete), minimum
Hard Drive	1TB Solid State Hard Drive (SSD), minimum
Operating System	Windows 11 Pro (or most current) 64-bit
Ethernet	10/100/1000 Ethernet (optional, if available)
Wireless	Integrated 802.11ac + Bluetooth 5.0 (or better)

Laptop Recommendations - Apple / macOS	
Screen	MacBook Pro 16"
Processor	10-core CPU or better
Memory	16GB RAM, minimum
System Graphics	4GB Graphics Mem (dedicated/discrete), or best available
Hard Drive	1TB Solid State Hard Drive (SSD), minimum
Operating System	Most Current
Ethernet	10/100/1000 Ethernet (optional, if available)
Wireless	Integrated 802.11ac + Bluetooth 5.0 (or better)

Hardware and Software Recommendations*	
Microsoft Office Professional (2020 or higher)	
ESRI ArcGIS (most current version/update)***	
Adobe Creative Cloud (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, AcrobatPro, etc.), latest versions	
CAD software: **Autodesk AutoCAD, latest version	
3D Modeling (Autodesk Revit, Civil 3D; SketchUp; Rhino; 3ds Max, etc.), latest versions**	
Internet Search Engines: Google Chrome, Bing, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, etc.	
Virus Protection: Norton 360 Deluxe or similar (consult Tech Center for advice)	
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)	

*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, <https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/technologystore>, techstore@bsu.edu, 765-285-4104). You may also contact BSU Unified Technology Support Tech Center (765-285-8324) for other technology-related inquiries. Computer manufacturers may offer good deals to students (e.g., discounts, financing, lease options). The following PC brands are and have been relatively common among our students and faculty: Dell, HP, Asus, Lenovo, Acer, MSi, Alienware. Please note that the Apple Macbook Pro will generally run most software emphasized in our program but some applications (e.g., ESRI ArcGIS, Autodesk Revit) only run on the Windows OS; this requires the installation & use of Bootcamp, Parallels Desktop, etc. to run those applications on the Mac OS.

Notes:

Suggested upgrades and other considerations:

- Highly recommended: Pen-enabled tablet (e.g., Apple iPad, Microsoft Surface, or similar); a high-end 2-in-1 convertible touchscreen laptop could be a good all-in-one alternative to a regular PC laptop
- Increase system graphics memory if possible
- Upgrade processor and GHz speed if possible
- Increase internal hard drive capacity
- Increase memory (system RAM) if possible
- 17" or larger screen to maximize area for graphics & multi-tasking (may compromise portability)
- USB 3.0 flash drive (256GB or larger)
- External hard drive (1TB+ SSD, USB pocket size)
- Webcam (integrated or external)
- External monitor to maximize productivity (24"+)
- External DVD writer (CDs/DVDs less common now)
- Extra laptop battery
- Integrated mobile broadband (AT&T, Verizon, etc.)
- Extended (3-4 years) warranty/service/support + accidental damage protection for your hardware.
- Mac users should consider purchasing Parallels Desktop (or similar) to run PC-only applications.
- Printer (a convenience, not a necessity)
- Extra power cord/adaptor (for home and school)

Software available at the BSU Technology Store:

Windows 10/11 Operating System (±\$32.00)
Adobe Creative Cloud (±\$50.00/year)
Parallels Desktop 16 for Mac (±\$40.00/year)
Norton 360 Deluxe (±\$27.00)
Call or visit them online for titles and pricing.

CAD and GIS options:

**Autodesk AutoCAD, Revit, Civil 3D, and 3ds Max are available free to students @ <https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/featured>

**A variety of CAD options are available, each with differing 2D & 3D characteristics. AutoCAD, Revit, Rhino, and SketchUp are taught in our curriculum. Students are welcome to explore and apply additional CAD, representation, and modeling tools which might best support their own design methods/interests.

***ESRI ArcGIS software available free through Bracken Library (GIS Research and Map Collection, 765-285-1097)