# computer recommendations

## Laptop Specs:

- CPU/Processor: Multicore Processors (4 Cores Recommended, 10 Cores optimal)
- Storage: 32 GB or more of free space on a Solid State drive (SSD)
- Memory/RAM: 32 GB recommended, 64 GB optimal.
- GPU: GPU with DirectX 12 support (feature level 12_0 or later), 4 GB of GPU memory for 4k displays and greater
- Screen Resolution: 1280 x 800 at 100% scaling, or 1920 x 1080 at 150% scaling; 8, 16, and 32-bit color all supported. A 1920 x 1080 display or higher is recommended.
- Mouse: A 3-button, scroll-wheel mouse.
- Students MUST buy a 1TB external solid-state drive (preferred) or a 1TB flash drive.

The department provides a number of computer stations in a teaching lab. However, a laptop computer is recommended for all urban planning students.

The mobility and flexibility of using a laptop is ideal in the studio, classroom, library, and your residence where you can take notes, do research, compose graphics, build digital models, or access GIS data. The department recommends a Windows PC over a Mac. If you want to purchase a Mac, you will need to install Windows using Parallels Desktop. For technical support, purchases, or hardware repair, visit Ball State Technology Store.

## Recommended software

**Microsoft Office** for PC or Mac (Office 365 Pro Plus is now available for free download for BSU students via webmail).

**Adobe Creative Cloud**: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat (Available free for enrolled students)

**Antivirus Software**: Free antivirus software from Microsoft Security Essentials.

**ArcGIS Software** (free access provided through the university).

**Sketchup Pro**: Available for a 12-month subscription at a higher-ed student rate.

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