Student Computer Recommendations

Texas State University-San Marcos

Interior Design Program

General Information

The professional practice of interior design currently requires designers to be able to use a wide range of technologically based tools to produce drawings, renderings and related support documents for clients.

To best prepare our students to enter the marketplace, our curriculum includes courses addressing both hand and computer-based drawing and presentation techniques. However, a significant portion of student learning relative to technology is self-directed. In short, students are expected to be able to build upon the basics they learn in their formal technology courses to produce high quality work in their interior design studios.

Although there are campus computer facilities to support student work in this regard, these facilities have limited hours of operation and the types of software available vary from one lab to another. For this reason, the ID faculty strongly recommends that students lease or purchase a notebook computer (laptop) by the beginning of their junior year (5th semester). This tool is an integral part of the design studio education process.

Additional information about computer use at Texas State can be found on the *Information Technology Assistance Center* (ITAC) New computer FAQ for Students webpage.

Software

The ID program makes no recommendation as to which platform of computer (Mac or PC) you should purchase. The majority of design software (Adobe Suite, Trimble Sketch-up, Autodesk Autocad, Vectorworks, Archicad, Microstation, etc.) is platform independent, however Autodesk Revit is currently only offered on the PC platform. Please see the Mac specifications section of this document for recommendations on running Windows software within the Mac operating system. Students should consult with faculty to determine specific software on a course-by-course basis. **Before purchasing any software, consult Texas State resources for software available to enrolled students.** Download Software

- **CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) and BIM (Building Information Modeling):**
  Software is available to enrolled students through a free subscription offered by the software manufacturers.
  Autodesk for Students (Autocad; Revit Architecture)
  Vectorworks for Students (Vectoworks Designer, Architect, Spotlight, and Landmark)
  Archicad for Students
  Microstation for Students
  Trimble Sketchup (Sketchup is free, Sketchup Pro is available at student discount)

- **Digital Presentation and Image Manipulation:**
  Software is available to enrolled students through a fee-based subscription offered by the software manufacturer.
  Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)

- **Word Processing/Spreadsheet:**
  Software is available to enrolled students through ITAC (Information Technology Assistance Center).
  Microsoft Office for Students

- **Anti-virus:**
  Software is available to enrolled students through ITAC (Information Technology Assistance Center).
  It is recommended that full licensed copies of antivirus software should replace the “trial-ware” anti-virus that comes preinstalled on new computers (unless students plan to buy the full version).

Financial Aid

Students should consult with the financial aid department to determine whether or not there is funding available (such as additional student loans available though and increase to the student’s cost of attendance) to assist with the coast of hardware and software purchases.

Piracy

Texas State University prohibits the use of pirated software. Students are expected to certify that all software on their computer is legally obtained and they may be asked to present proof of software ownership. Students who have pirated software on their computers will not be serviced and can be reported to student judicial affairs.

Repairs

The Texas State ITAC offers Warranty Repairs and Service on Personally owned equipment.

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PC Specifications

- CPU: Multi-Core Intel i5 or i7 Series processor or equivalent (i7 Preferred)
- Display: 15“ minimum
- RAM: 8 GB minimum (16 GB Preferred)
- Hard Drive: +/- 256 GB minimum (+/- 512 GB Preferred)
- Optical Drive: DVD +/- R/RW (Optional)
- Graphics Processor/Card: High-end graphics processor (These change frequently so consult IT staff or sales for recommended models. Generally, a computer model geared for “Gaming” will have sufficient video card support. Avoid “Integrated” Graphics Cards.)
- Network: Wireless Card
- O.S.: Windows 7 (Preferred)
  Windows 8.1 (Acceptable)
- Warranty: 3-year extended recommended

Mac Specification

- CPU: Multi-Core Intel i5 or i7 Series processor or equivalent (i7 Preferred)
- Display: 15” minimum
- RAM: 8 GB minimum (16 GB Preferred)
- Disk Storage: +/- 256 GB minimum (+/- 512 GB Preferred)
- Optical Drive: DVD +/- R/RW (Optional)
- Graphics Processor/Card: High-end graphics processor (These change frequently so consult IT staff or sales for recommended models. Generally, a computer model geared for “Gaming” will have sufficient video card support. Avoid “Integrated” Graphics Cards.)
- Network: Wireless Card
- O.S.: OS X 10.9.1 Mavericks
- Configuration: Apple Boot Camp with
  -Windows 7 (Preferred)
  -Windows 8.1 (Acceptable)
  (Apple Boot Camp is **required** to run AutoDesk Revit. All other software is dual platform.)
- Warranty: AppleCare (3-year extended) recommended

Backup Drive (Required)

A computer backup solution is required. Both PC and MAC operating systems include back-up software that should be scheduled weekly (or daily) dependent upon workload. The dedicated backup hard-drive should be kept stationary (in a safe place) and be used **solely for back-up files.**

- Ext. Drive: External USB 2.0 or 3.0
  500 GB to 1 TB
- Online Backup: Wireless Ability, Subscription Based
  Ex. BackBlaze, Carbonite, CrashPlan, or equivalent

Additional Items

- Mouse: A 3-button/scroll wheel mouse (external) is **required** for all 3D modeling programs
- Flash drive: 8 GB minimum (**required** for some courses)
- Printing: 8.5x11 Color Print/Scanner Recommended, 11x17 Color Print/Scanner Preferred
  (BW Printing and Scanning is available in Campus Computer Labs. Color Printing/Copies are available at on campus print shop, Copy Cats.)