

WVU Interior Architecture Program

Computer Expectation Policy: Class of 2026

(Issue date: **May 20, 2022**; Policy will be updated for the Class of 2027 by May 20, 2023)

Introduction

Each student entering the first year of the interior architecture major is expected to use a personal LAPTOP COMPUTER system to complete assignments in the studio classrooms during class meetings. Each student is expected to provide the computer hardware and software necessary to meet this expectation, and **successful completion of required interior architecture studio courses is unlikely for students who do not meet this expectation according to the specifications provided below.**

The interior architecture studio is the primary place for learning how to design architectural interiors and for the exchange of design ideas. The goal of the laptop computer expectation policy is to integrate digital media into the design studio experience. Such integration is required for success in the design professions and maximizes design learning in the educational setting. The mobility of the laptop allows the student to easily and quickly transform a relatively small desk space into a variety of configurations suitable for hand-drawing, hand-drafting, design research, and design writing as well as digital drawing, graphic design, and design visualization. The battery-powered laptop allows for maximum computer use within environments with limited electrical power outlets and allows the student to keep the computer on their person for security reasons. Input devices (such as scanners) and output devices (such as printers and plotters) are available in campus computer laboratories.

Students may meet the computer expectation by purchasing, leasing, or borrowing a laptop computer loaded with the specified software. If a student decides to purchase a computer, the cost of a new computer purchase can be factored in determining a student's financial need. **Please contact the WVU Financial Aid Office (304 293 5242) directly to request information about the process for having a computer purchase included in the determination of financial need.** The Financial Aid Office's decision regarding a student's eligibility for a budget adjustment may take some time, so students are strongly encouraged to plan ahead. Only one financial aid budget adjustment (typically up to \$1,500 although a greater adjustment may be possible with justification) toward a new computer and associated software can be issued during a student's undergraduate education.

Hardware Expectation ('VR' Ready)

Note: As of the issue date of this document, computer hardware configurations that meet or exceed the minimum specifications listed below are available through [Dell.com](https://www.dell.com) for \$1,666 (16GB RAM) as the [Alienware x15 Gaming Laptop – order code wnx15r1cto20s](#). The price of this configuration on this date does not reflect potential [Dell academic discounts](#) and is subject to change. The [Omen by HP Laptop – 16-c0035nr](#) at [HP.com](https://www.hp.com) for \$1,400 (16GB RAM). This HP price does not reflect potential [HP academic discounts](#) and is subject to change. Other laptops that meet the minimum specification are available at [Best Buy](#) starting at \$1,500. All prices are accurate as of the issue date of this policy but are subject to change.

A minimum hardware specification has been developed to meet the system requirements of the graphics software specified below. Software products currently used in the interior architecture curriculum for 3D modelling, rendering ([Lumion](#)) and virtual reality ([Vive Pro](#)) are hardware intensive. Because of this, the hardware specifications below typically align more closely with gaming systems. Multiple computer manufacturers can meet the hardware specification, but **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMPUTER RECOMMENDATION IS INADEQUATE FOR INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE SOFTWARE. INSTEAD, USE THIS SPECIFICATION.**

Please also note that ***the interior architecture program strongly advises against the purchase of a Mac.*** Why? Two common software products used in the industry, Autodesk REVIT and Lumion are not available for Mac operating systems. While they can be run on Mac systems with Bootcamp and Windows 10 installed (at additional expense), they run less efficiently. ***Lumion does not support use on Macs*** because graphic cards installed in affordable Mac laptops are generally insufficient for effective rendering with Lumion. Additionally,

the [M1/ARM processor installed in some Macs has been associated with compatibility problems](#). For detailed information about Lumion and Macs, visit <https://support.lumion.com/hc/en-us/articles/360003476733-Can-you-install-Lumion-on-a-Mac->

WVU’s wireless network is available in the design studios and across most of the WVU campus both indoors and outdoors. Students must adhere to all WVU security and software policies. Best practices for keeping your account and computer safe can be found <https://it.wvu.edu/defend-your-data/how-you-can-defend-your-data> . Instructions for connecting to the WVU wireless network can be found at <https://wvu.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ITS/pages/308543523/Connect+Your+Device+to+WVU+s+Wi-Fi> . Connections to wireless require a current WVU username and password.

WVU offers fee based wireless printing and scanning at certain locations. For information, please visit <https://wvu.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ITS/pages/300581695/MyPrinting+FAQ> .

Each student is responsible for the security and insurance of her or his design tools used in studio courses, including the personal laptop computer. Use of a computer cable lock is recommended. The interior architecture program cannot provide technical support, so an extended on-site warranty for hardware is also strongly recommended.

Hardware Specifications

The processor and video card specs especially are ‘non-negotiable’ for successfully completing advanced studio projects.		
	Minimum Specification	Recommended Specification
Platform	Windows Compatible NOTEBOOK/LAPTOP	Windows Compatible NOTEBOOK/LAPTOP
Operating System	Windows 10 64-bit (or newer)	Windows 10 64-bit (or newer)
Processor	>2,200 PassMark CPU Points Single Thread Rating required (e.g. 10 th generation Intel Core i-7-11800H ; or I-7-1200H or AMD Ryzen 7 5800H , etc.)	>2,600 PassMark CPU Points Single Thread Rating required (e.g. 10 th generation Intel Core i-7-11800H ; or I-7-12700H or AMD Ryzen 7 5800H , etc.)
Memory (RAM)	16GB min upgraded in the near future to 32GB	64GB
Video Card	“Discrete” Graphics Card – 8 GB min ; >14,000 PassMark G3D Points required (e.g. NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3070 Laptop GPU , Radion RX 6600 , etc.)	“Discrete” Graphics Card – 11 GB min ; >20,000 PassMark G3D Points required (e.g. NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3080 TI Laptop GPU , Radeon RX 6800 , etc.)
Video Card Driver	OpenGL version 4.6 or higher	OpenGL version 4.6 or higher
Ports	HDMI, DisplayPort 1.2 or newer, and USB 3.0 or newer; Headset	HDMI, DisplayPort 1.2 or newer, and USB 3.0 or newer; Headset
Display	FHD (1920 x 1080)	FHD (1920 x 1080)
Hard Disk Drive	Solid State Drive (SSD) - 512 GB or higher	Solid State Drive (SSD) - 512 GB or higher
NIC/Ethernet Card	Wireless 802.11N or 802.11AX	Wireless 802.11N or 802.11AX
External Mouse	3 Button Scroll-Wheel required	3 Button Scroll-Wheel required
Additional Recommendations:		
Warranty	3 Year On-site / In-home Parts and Repairs Service Recommended	
Security	Cable Lock Strongly recommended	

Software Policy

All computers used on the university networks must have up to date software security patches and the free antivirus software available through the university.

Before buying a hardware system with preloaded software, compare the hardware vendor's software prices with those of WVU's negotiated academic prices and other student prices provided via the links. The following software expectation comprises a basic software set-up for most design learning activities. Additional software may be expected for individual courses.

Software Specification

All prices are accurate as of the date of this policy but are subject to change.

The following software must be installed on your laptop computer <u>prior</u> to the beginning of the fall 2021 semester:		
Anti-virus Software:	Sophos Antivirus Software	Download via http://freeav.wvu.edu (FREE to WVU students if you use your WVU Mix email when you sign up).
Cloud Storage:	Google Drive for Desktop	Free, unlimited Google Drive cloud storage is available to WVU students if you use your WVU Mix account. Download Google Drive File Stream via https://support.google.com/drive/answer/7329379
Office Software:	Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Powerpoint)	Download via https://wvu.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/KB/ArticleDet?ID=6382 (FREE to WVU students).
Graphics Software:	GIMP	Download "directly" via https://www.gimp.org/downloads (FREEware alternative to Photoshop)
Acquire and install the following software on your computer <u>ONLY</u> WHEN REQUIRED FOR A COURSE (please be prepared to acquire and install upon request): <i>*Denotes products that are subscription-based or time-limited licenses.</i>		
3D Modeling:	Trimble SketchUp Studio *	Student license. Download via https://shop.creationengine.com/collections/sketchup-studio-for-students/products/sketchup-studio-for-students (\$55/year).
	Autodesk Revit *	Academic version. Download via Autodesk Education Community at https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/featured (FREE for students).
Rendering:	Lumion Pro Student	Student license. Download via https://lumion.com/students.html (FREE for students).
	SU Podium V2.6 w/Podium Browser *	Student/Teacher License. Download via https://store.cadaloginc.com/student-teacher-products/ (\$99/year).
Graphics Software:	Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat Pro) *	Student License; Download via Adobe Creative Cloud for Education (\$20/mo. first year then \$30/mo.)
Other - 2D CADD, VR, etc:	Autodesk AutoCAD *	Academic version. Downloadable via Autodesk Education Community at https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/featured (FREE).
	Viveport	Downloadable via Vive Setup at https://www.vive.com/us/setup/vive/