

WVU Interior Design Program

Computer Expectation Policy: Class of 2025

(Issue date: May 15, 2021; Policy will be updated for the Class of 2026 by May 15, 2022)

Introduction

Each student entering the first year of the interior design 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 design studio courses is unlikely for students who do not meet this expectation according to the specifications provided below.**

The interior design 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 can be factored in determining a student's financial need. **Please contact the WVU Financial Aid Office (304 293 5242) to request the form "Request for Student Budget Review" and confirm whether the purchase is subject to any additional qualifying guidelines prior to purchasing a computer. The completed "Request for Student Budget Review" form must be submitted directly to the WVU Financial Aid office.** The 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 for HTC Hive)

Note: As of the issue date of this document, computer hardware configurations that meet or exceed all minimum specifications listed below are available through [Dell.com](https://www.dell.com) for \$1,274 (16GB RAM) as the [G5 15 Gaming Laptop](#) – order code [gn5500ehwkh](#). The price of this configuration on this date does not reflect potential [Dell academic discounts](#) and is subject to change. A customized model that meets all minimum specs (with 16MB RAM) is available through the [HP.com](#) discount site for \$1,390 as the [Omen Laptop – 15t-ek100](#). Other laptops that meet minimum specifications (with 16MB RAM) are available at [Best Buy](#) starting at \$1,200. All prices are accurate as of the issue date of this policy but are subject to change.[hp](#)

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 design 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 DESIGN SOFTWARE. INSTEAD, USE THIS SPECIFICATION.**

Please also note that *the interior design 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 (or Parallels) and Windows installed (at additional expense), they run less efficiently. **Lumion also discourages installations on Macs** because graphic cards installed in affordable Macs laptops are generally insufficient for effective rendering with Lumion. Additionally, the **M1/ARM processor installed in newer Macs has been associated with compatibility problems**, and units with this processor especially should be avoided.

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 at <https://it.wvu.edu/security/defend-your-data/keep-a-clean-machine>. Instructions for connecting to the WVU wireless network can be found at <https://wvu.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1976/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=15574>. Connections to wireless require a current WVU username and password.

WVU offers fee based wireless printing at certain location. The service is called [MyPrinting](#). Scanning is free at these locations.

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 design program cannot provide technical support, so an extended on-site warranty for hardware is also strongly recommended.

Hardware Specifications

In order to meet expectations for individual courses, your hardware configuration must meet or exceed the following specifications:	
Platform	Windows Compatible NOTEBOOK/LAPTOP
Operating System	Windows 10 HOME OR PRO
Processor	>12,500 PassMark CPU Points required (e.g. 10 th generation Intel Core i-7-10750H; or I-7-10879H)
Processor Speed	4 GHz or higher (with boost/'turbo') required
Memory (RAM)	16GB min. , 32GB strongly recommended
Video Card	“Discrete” Graphics Card – 6 GB min. 8 GB recommended; >13,800 PassMark G3D Points required (e.g. GeForce RTX 2070 with Max-Q; or RTX 3070 with Max-Q; or RTX 2060; or RTX 3060)
Video Card Driver	OpenGL version 4.5 or higher
Video Output	HDMI 2.0; DisplayPort 1.4 or DisplayPort Alt Mode
USB Port	1x USB 2.0 or newer
Display	FHD (1920 x 1080) Anti-Glare; 15”; 17” recommended
Hard Disk Drive	512 GB or higher required; Solid State Drive (SSD) recommended;
NIC/Ethernet Card	Wireless 802.11N or 802.11AX required
External Mouse	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 to</u> 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 ONLY WHEN REQUIRED FOR A COURSE <i>(please be prepared to acquire and install upon request):</i>		
<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/