

Laptop Specifications for CUArch

For students enrolled in Architecture and planning, a more robust laptop system than appears on the Tech Services website is required. The systems need to have increased processor speed, RAM and graphics capabilities because of all the software the students will need to use on their laptops. Please be aware that it is mandatory for all incoming Architecture and Planning students to have a laptop. Below is hardware specs, software requirements and links to stores to purchase different hardware.

***Here at CUArch we don't use MAC operating systems. Please do not purchase an IMAC, MacBook, MacBook pro, and MacBook Air hardware from Apple to use as your main system at CUArch. In the past students had a lot of different problems using Apple products for their main laptop like software compatibility issues, lack of hardware resources and partitioning issues. We know that students enjoy using Apple products but for Architecture and Planning students this will cause issues and will be costly in the long run. We highly recommend going with a Microsoft Windows operating system. ***

Hardware

- System Type: Laptop or 2-in-1
- Processor: Intel® Core™ i7
- Processor Speed: 3.0GHz or higher
- Operating System: Windows 7 64-bit or Windows 10 64-bit
- Display size: 15.6" or higher
- Display type: Touchscreen preferred
- Memory: 16 GB or higher (Please make sure that your laptop is capable of installing more RAM if necessary)
- Hard Drive: 500 GB SATA hard drive (7200RPM) or Solid State Drive preferred for better performance
- Accessories: Wireless mouse, stylus and laptop lock
- VGA card NVidia GeForce at least 2GB" VR support preferred "

Software

[Microsoft Office](#) (Free for students)

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- [Adobe Creative Cloud](#) (Discounted price for students)
 - Photoshop
 - InDesign
 - Illustrator
 - Adobe Acrobat DC
- [Autodesk](#) (Free for students)
 - AutoCAD
 - Revit
 - 3ds Max
- [Rhinoceros](#) (Purchased at the CUA bookstore)
- [SketchUp](#) (Discounted price for students)

Places to purchase technically hardware

- [Best Buy](#)
- [Staples](#)
- [Dell](#)
- [HP](#)
- [Costco](#)