

University of Louisiana Lafayette School of Architecture and Design

Computer Requirements 2024-25

The School of Architecture and Design incorporates digital technologies into its curriculum. **All students are required to lease, purchase, or have ready access to a laptop that either meets or exceeds the specifications listed below starting in year 2, when students register for DSGN 235. A laptop is required because students must be able to work in classes on campus with the computer but cannot leave the computer in Fletcher unattended.**

When computer shopping, many major electronics retailers might be unfamiliar with the graphics requirements associated with applications such as Autodesk, Adobe Creative Suite, or Rhinoceros. The school recommends that you consider systems similar to those that will support 3D animated gaming. These systems often have comparable video cards and sufficient memory necessary to support the 3D modeling and animation software required. Our programs do not recommend any vendor or manufacturer of computer equipment. All 3D modeling programs are natively written for Windows.

Note: Revit, required for 3rd year architecture and 2nd year interior design students, does not run on Apple products (unless you specifically adapt your computer to run Windows based software).

Because this is a required purchase, you may be able to approach financial aid about increasing your package to accommodate this cost.

PC System Specifications

Operating System:

Basic: Microsoft Windows 11 Home

Basic: Microsoft Windows 11 Pro

Central Processing Unit (CPU):

Basic: Intel Core i7, 4.2 GHz processor or faster (CPU Mark of 2000 or higher)

Upgrade: Intel Core Ultra 7

RAM:

Basic: 16 GB

Upgrade: 32 GB or more

Hard Drive:

Basic: 1 Tb SDD

Upgrade: 1 Tb or more SDD

Graphic Processing Unit (GPU):

Basic: NVIDIA® RTX™ 3050-3080 (4-12 GB)

Upgrade: NVIDIA® RTX™ 3090, or any RTX 40## (12+ GB)

Notes:

- Small upgrades in graphics cards are often well worth it.
- Intel graphics cards are **NOT** recommended.

Screen Resolution:

1920x1080 minimum

Mouse:

Three-button mouse with scroll wheel

About AMD products:

Intel, NVIDIA and AMD are manufacturers of computer components (processors, memory, etc.). Many computers come with AMD products. While these may be equivalent to Intel and NVIDIA, they can be cumbersome to use and adapt to various software.

MacBook Pro System Specifications

Not recommended for Architecture or Interior Design Students.

Operating System:

macOS Monterey or later

Central Processing Unit (CPU)/ Graphic Processing Unit (GPU):

Basic: Apple M3 Pro (11-core CPU, 14-core GPU)

Upgrade: Apple M3 Max (14-core CPU, 30-core GPU)

RAM:

Basic: 16 GB

Upgrade: 32 GB or more

Hard Drive:

Basic: 512 GB SSD

Upgrade: 1 TB or more SSD

Screen Resolution:

2560x1600 minimum

Mouse:

Three-button mouse with scroll wheel

Notes:

Apple M2 Pro and M2 Max chips were discontinued in October 2023, but may still be available and are acceptable.

External Hard Drive (preferred)

1 TB

Computer Programs to be Installed

Rhino 7 (\$195 student license – single purchase). Must be purchased – trial license is not sufficient.

Adobe Creative Cloud (\$29.99/month or \$239 for the first year and \$359/yr after): Photoshop; Illustrator; InDesign. (These programs are all part of the single cost monthly subscription) You do not need to buy the subscription until we tell you to install the programs.

Second Monitor (optional)

Some students report that a second monitor is helpful when taking DSGN 235 – so that they can watch the video tutorials on one screen while completing their work on a second screen.

As you select a computer, please confirm that it will run:

Architecture, Interior Design, Industrial Design:

Rhinoceros 8.0: <https://www.rhino3d.com/8/system-requirements/>

Industrial Design:

Autodesk Fusion 360:

<https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdcarticles/sfdcarticles/System-requirements-for-Autodesk-Fusion-360.html>

Architecture and Interior Design:

Autodesk Revit:

<https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdcarticles/sfdcarticles/System-requirements-for-Revit-2024-products.html>

Lumion: <https://lumion.com/requirements.html>