

University of Nebraska College of Architecture 2023-2024 Computer Policy

All students in the College of Architecture's Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture programs are required to lease, purchase, or have ready access to a laptop computer that meets or exceeds the specifications listed below. Incoming students are highly recommended to use a Windows PC.

Processor	Intel i7 2.6 GHz processor or better
Display:	15 inch with 1920 x 1080 minimum resolution
RAM:	16Gb minimum
SSD Storage:	512 Gb minimum
External Mouse:	3-button with scroll wheel required
Video Card:	AMD or Nvidia graphics (See page 2)
OS:	Windows 10 or 11

Warranty:	3-year extended recommended
Required Hardware:	Flash Drive (8 GB or larger) Printing or file transfers
Recommended Hardware:	External USB Drive (500 GB or larger) for backups

The College of Architecture recognizes that some students may already own a computer with comparable specifications, perhaps only falling short on RAM, processor speed, or graphics capability. While such a computer may be suitable in the short term, it will be necessary for you to acquire a computer that meets or exceeds the specifications listed above during, or soon after your first year of school.

Application Software (items requiring student purchase in bold)

All Students Require:

- Graphics: Adobe Creative Cloud*
- Business: Microsoft Office 365
- Virus: Cortex XDR (provided by UNL***)

Architecture Students: CAD: AutoCAD 2024*** and Revit 2024***
3D Modeling: Rhino 7**

Architecture students/parents may wish to research computer/program compatibility for laptop purchases falling outside the recommendations above.

Interior Design Students: CAD: AutoCAD 2024*** and Revit 2024***
3D Modeling: Rhino 7**

Due to the program software requirements, Apple MacBook Pro laptops are not recommended for Interior Design majors.

Landscape Architecture Students: CAD: AutoCAD 2024***
3D Modeling: Rhino 7** and Lumion***

Due to the extreme graphics card requirements the Lumion software requires, Apple MacBook Pro laptops are not recommended for Landscape Architecture majors.

* Adobe Creative Cloud is free to UNL students: <http://itprocurement.unl.edu/adobe-creative-cloud-full-suite>

****Educational pricing available at the UNL Huskertech Computer Store. <https://its.unl.edu/huskertech/software>**

***The following software is available for free download:

- Cortex XDR Anti-Virus is available for free download from: <http://antivirus.unl.edu/>
- Microsoft Office 365 can be installed after signing in to the web portal <http://mymail.unl.edu>
- Autodesk software is available at: <http://students.autodesk.com> - see Software Help Sheet for directions.
- Lumion offers its software free to students. <https://lumion.com/educational-licenses-us.html>

The University of Nebraska prohibits the use of pirated software or digital media. Students may be asked to present proof of software ownership. Students who have pirated software or digital media on their computers will not be serviced and can be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

UNL Huskertech Computer Shop

For the last several years the UNL Huskertech Computer Shop has offered laptop packages specifically configured for students in the College of Architecture. Because of the positive response, the Computer Shop will again offer packages for students in the College of Architecture. Since 2013, they have worked with Dell to arrange special educational pricing.

Information will be posted on the Huskertech sales website as the terms are finalized. You can also check with the UNL Huskertech Store directly (402-472-5151) for more information on what options are available. They are located in room 7 on the lower level of the city campus Nebraska Union at 1400 R Street. <https://its.unl.edu/huskertech/>

Please be advised that any custom-ordered computer takes between a few weeks to over a month from the time an order is placed, to the time the computer is received. All students are expected to have their computer purchased and software installed on or before August 21st, 2024.

Graphics Cards

There are two major manufacturers of high-end graphics cards, often referred to as a “GPU” (Graphics Processing Unit) Nvidia and AMD. Intel is trying to get into this market with its Arc series, but they are not there yet. Nvidia makes two separate lines of cards. The GeForce line is marketed for gaming and the Quadro line is for industrial applications. Here is a breakdown of each company’s current line-up of cards and a recommended minimum model number for each that is needed to run the required software in UNL College of Architecture programs.

NOTE: What is deemed as a “gaming card” is still very capable of running all the programs used by the college. The difference is that the “industrial cards” have been extensively tested and earned an ISV (Independent Software Vendors) certification for compatibility. This is why a similarly performing “Industrial card” will cost more than a “gaming card.”

Nvidia Quadro line (Industrial)		Nvidia GeForce (Gaming)	
Model	Rating	Model	Rating
RTX A2000 or higher	Recommended	RTX 4060 or better	Acceptable
RTX T1200 or A600	Acceptable	RTX 4050 or lower	Not Recommended
RTX T600 or lower	Not recommended	RTX 3060 or better	Acceptable
		RTX 3050Ti or lower	Not Recommended

AMD Radeon	
Model	Rating
Radeon RX 7600M	Acceptable
Radeon RX 6600M or better	Acceptable
Radeon RX 6550M or lower	Not recommended

Apple Processors

Apple products are no longer supported due to compatibility issues with Apple’s Silicone “M#” processors and application software used in the programs. In November 2020 Apple launched its proprietary ARM-based “Silicone M#” processor that replaced Intel processors in their entire lineup of computers. The MacBook Pro line-up is only offered with the Silicone M# line of processors and Bootcamp is no longer an option on Macs with these processors.

Even though “virtual machine” software that can run Windows as a program such as Parallels is available, it can only use the “ARM” processor version of Windows. Which is different than the version installed on a normal Windows PC. Many software packages will not install at all or have reported performance issues or crashes when run in this environment. The College of Architecture has never endorsed trying to run any of the required software on a virtual machine due to its inability to efficiently run the programs required by the College of Architecture.