



COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR DESIGN

The Interior Design Department is proud to make use of the latest technology to prepare students more fully for the professional design world. To facilitate this process, all students are required to have a laptop computer. The software we use requires more RAM and specific graphics cards with which out-of-the-box laptops may not be equipped, especially for upper-level courses. The complex, advanced software that we use changes annually and requires more computing power, RAM, and graphics capabilities.

Because of this, students need to be prepared to invest in a quality laptop. Since computers are used in the classroom environment, a laptop is the required platform. The laptops specifications we require are more expensive (approx. \$2,500-\$3,000) than a typical “out-of-the-box” laptop. We encourage students to wait to purchase their HIGH-CAPACITY laptop until they are in the second year (Studio II) of the program.

Below are the **minimum** system requirements for a laptop computer intended to be used for the duration of an academic career in the Interior Design Program. The specifications listed below are the ideal system configurations as of when this document was updated. Each component is typically a separate specification, therefore allowing for more customization on the consumer’s end. Variations to these specifications will be acceptable, but optimal performance will be achieved with the listed specifications. For example, the specified operating system is Microsoft Windows 11 64-bit: enterprise or pro; however, you may choose to purchase a laptop that has Windows 11 Home Addition. Each of these operating systems will work with the software but may not perform as well as the listed operating system and may not be supported through the full four-year duration.

Windows 10 will no longer be supported or able to be updated as of October 14, 2025.

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CONFIGURATION	
Operating System	Microsoft® Windows® 11 64-bit: Enterprise or Pro
CPU/GPU Type (Processor)	Multi-Core Processor: Intel® Ultra or AMD® Ryzen, Ryzen with 2.5 GHz or Higher base core clock speed . We recommend a Dual Core Processor at minimum. Multiple cores (i.e. 16 cores) will result in better computing power. The higher the CPU speed, gigahertz (GHz), the better. The best and latest Intel Processor is the Intel Core Ultra 9 285K. The best and latest AMD Processor is the AMD Ryzen 9 9950X3D.
Memory (RAM)	32 GB RAM (recommended: with expansion slots); 64GB RAM will provide even better performance
Video Display	Ultra-High-Definition Monitor (4K) or 1280 x 1024 resolution with True Color.
Video Adapter (Graphics Card)	Basic Graphics: Display adapter capable of 24-bit color, DirectX® 11 capable graphics card with Shader Model 5.



PERFORMANCE LEVEL CONFIGURATION

	Advanced Graphics: DirectX 11 capable graphics card with Shared Model 5 and 4 GB of video memory recommended Visit https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdcarticles/sfdcarticles/System-requirements-for-Revit-2027-products.html For cards approved by the software developer of the software we use in ID (AutoCAD and Revit). Required Graphics Cards: NVIDIA GeForce RTX or Quadro OR AMD Radeon RX (Our software does not run with Intel Graphics Cards). Recommended Graphics Cards for optimal performance: NVIDIA RTX 50-Series (5090, 5080, 5070 Ti) (newest) NVIDIA RTX 40-Series (4090, 4080, 4070 Ti Super, 4070 Super) AMD RX 9000-Series (9070 XT, 9070 GRE, 9060 XT) DEDICATED VIDEO RAM (VRAM) used by the GRAPHICS PROCESSING UNITS (GPU'S) TO STORE IMAGE DATA [solely set aside to handle the graphical demands of software like Enscape](This is in addition to the computer's Memory/RAM): Minimum: 4GB VRAM Mid-range: 8GB VRAM Optimal: 12GB VRAM (more dedicated RAM on the card is better)
Pointing Device	MS-Mouse or 3Dconnexion compliant device (an optical mouse is required; either wired, wireless, or Bluetooth)
.NET Platform	.NET 10
Hard Drive	500 GB Hard Drive or larger Solid State (SSD) minimum; SSD enables less power usage, faster data access, and higher reliability. We recommend purchasing a laptop with two separate hard drives that equal at least 1TB of storage per drive. This will provide one drive for the operating system and software and a separate drive for data files.
Wireless Capabilities	IEEE 802.11ac wireless capability
Screen Size	We recommend a 15-16-inch video display. If a student gets a bigger computer, it is cumbersome to carry to and from class. Always look for the lightest computer to meet your needs. For better visibility for long term use, a separate monitor may be purchased to connect the laptop to.



PERFORMANCE LEVEL CONFIGURATION

Unsupported Hardware for the software we use in ID; Known issues identified by software manufacturers	Radeon 6000 mobile GPU's SLI Windows 11 ARM is not officially supported by Enscape. Issues may occur. DLSS and Hardware Accelerated Ray Tracing is not supported on the NVIDIA GTX 1660 product line and although the GTX 1660 cards can run RTX features, you will likely experience many performance issues. Therefore, it is disabled in version 4.0 and above. For previous versions of Enscape, you can still use it (performance issues may occur). The same applies to NVIDIA T1000 and T2000 graphics cards. In this scenario, we highly recommend disabling RTX for these GPUs.
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*The software required for the Interior Design Program upgrades each year. Note that the system requirements have the possibility of changing over a four-year period. We cannot control the software needs. Therefore, if a computer is purchased with these higher end specifications but upgrades to hardware are required during the academic cycle, there isn't much control we have on our end. Ultimately, all software requirements (and hardware) are implemented so that we are teaching and applying the most current technologies being used in the field of interior design.

Students who try and purchase one computer for their freshman year to last until their senior year are often very frustrated by the delayed computer response and ultimately decide to purchase an additional computer only after they suffer for several months. Additionally, we find that the following are very likely to occur with student laptops-no matter how much care the student takes. Computers will be dropped, get viruses, have drinks spilled on them, etc. It is important that students work to maintain the health of their systems at all times. The Interior Design Program does not recommend a particular brand or vendor.

Incoming first-year/freshman students will need to have a basic laptop to use AutoCAD in the first Spring Semester. This laptop can be one used in high school, including a MAC.

Required Software:

Most software is not purchased until directed by the instructor.

Additional softwares we use is listed below with their current prices and specific semesters.

	Price	Semester
Microsoft Office 365 – Must include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. (Microsoft Works, Google Docs, and Apple Pages are NOT an acceptable substitute) Access here. https://servicedesk.msstate.edu/TDClient/45/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=1371	Free through MSU Microsoft Student Advantage Program.	First Year (Fall)
Autodesk AutoCAD	Free (student license)	Starting First Year (Spring)
Autodesk Revit	Free (student license)	Starting Second Year (Spring)
Adobe Creative Cloud ADOBE CREATIVE CAMPUS https://www.adobe.msstate.edu/	\$50 Per Academic Year charged to A/R account	Starting Second Year (Spring)



Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat, Dimension		
Rhinoceros (Rhino) and/or Solidworks	Free 90 day trial	Third or Fourth Year (Fall)
SketchUp	\$55 – 1-year student license	Second Year (Fall)
Lumion Pro Student	Free	Fourth Year (Fall)
Enscape3D	\$149 – 1-year student license	Starting Second Year (Fall)
Genius Scan (and smart phone to operate) or similar scanning application	Free	First Year
Bluebeam Revu	Provided through departmental licensing	Fourth Year (Fall)

*Given that technology/software changes rapidly, there is a strong possibility that software requirements beyond those listed above may be required.

Use of Macs:

We do **not** recommend Apple Mac computers for students in our Interior Design program. Much of the software required for coursework is designed for the Windows operating system, and Mac-compatible versions are often unavailable. Students who choose to use a Mac must ensure the device meets all hardware requirements, install a dual-boot or virtualization solution (such as Boot Camp or Parallels), purchase Windows 11 Pro, and may need separate software installations or licenses for both operating systems.

Running Windows on a Mac also reduces available system resources. For example, a computer with 16 GB of RAM may allocate only a portion of that memory to Windows, which can significantly impact the performance of software commonly used in the program.

Please note that technical support for Mac-based systems is not provided. We do not recommend students use a Mac after the AutoCAD course, moving into other computing classes. For the best compatibility and performance, we recommend a Windows-based laptop that meets or exceeds the program's hardware specifications.

OTHER TECHNOLOGY, SOFTWARE, AND APP REQUIREMENTS.

Beginning in the Design Thinking and Representation course (First Semester-Spring), students will be required to purchase an iPad that is compatible with an Apple Pencil or similar writing device. The iPad can either be an iPad, iPad Air, or iPad Pro. The screen size is based on personal preference. Students must also have an Apple Pencil or similar piece of hardware for interfacing with the tablet. We will use the following apps on the iPad.

Morpholio Trace	In-App Purchases 1. Trace Pro Subscription \$24.99 2. Trace Plus Subscription \$9.99 3. Trace Pro Monthly \$7.99 4. Trace Essentials Subscription \$4.99 *Students receive a 75% discount off these prices for the year.	Sophomore Year
Morpholio Board	Included with MorpholioPro Subscription shown above or Ranging from \$4 to \$12 per month based on selected features *Students receive a 75% discount off these prices for the year.	Sophomore Year
Autodesk Sketchbook	Free with Autodesk Student Account	Sophomore Year



Canva	Free version	Sophomore Year
Adobe Fresco	Included with Adobe CC Subscription	Sophomore Year
Miro	Free	Sophomore Year
ProCreate	\$12.99 (one-time fee)	Sophomore Year

Additional apps may be added and introduced as needed.