

School of Design and Construction

Architecture + Interior Design + Landscape Architecture + Construction Management
Washington State University

COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS

The School of Design and Construction (SDC) requires all certified students to have computers that meet certain specifications. These specifications ensure that the computers will be properly suited to handle the software applications used in the curricula, which require use of Microsoft Windows. SDC's computing infrastructure is Windows-based, and all software/class instruction is given on Microsoft Windows-based computers. (See note below for users who prefer Apple MacBook Pro notebooks.)

Windows Laptop (Recommended):

Processor	Intel Core i5 or i7, gen. 3 or newer (Quad core i7 recommended) Intel Xeon E7 or newer
Memory	8 GB or more (12+ GB recommended)
Storage	128 GB (256+ GB recommended / SSD drive recommended)
Operating System	Windows 8.1 64-bit
Video Adapter (integrated Intel graphics cards do not provide adequate performance)	Nvidia GeForce GT 650 or newer (Nvidia based card recommended) AMD Radeon HD 7790 or newer
Video Memory	1 GB or greater (2+ GB recommended)

Macbook Pro:

Please note: Some of the applications used by the SDC do not run on Mac OS X, and you will have to run Windows. There are two ways to accomplish this. The first option is to use virtualization software, such as Parallels, to install Windows inside of Mac OS X. This option gives you access to Windows and Mac OS X simultaneously, but requires more CPU and RAM in order to be useable. The second option is to install and boot Windows on a separate partition using the Mac OS X utility "Boot Camp." This provides direct access to all hardware resources, so all other specifications for Windows machines listed above will suffice. The challenge is that you can only be in Windows or Mac OS X at any given time. Both options need "extra" hard disk space to dedicate to Windows and applications.

Host Operating System & Hardware type	Mac OS X "Yosemite" MacBook Pro 10,1 (Early 2013) or newer
Memory (RAM) (*IMPORTANT: RAM is not upgradeable in new Macbook Pros, so get the max at time of purchase.)	8GB (Boot Camp) 16 GB (Parallels / VMware Fusion) (16 GB recommended because of non-upgradability)
CPU Type	2.7 GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 or newer (Parallels)
Hard Drive	256 GB (500+ GB recommended / SSD drive recommended)
Video Adapter (integrated Intel graphics cards do not provide adequate performance)	AMD Radeon R9 M390x Nvidia GeForce GT 650 or newer
Video Memory	1GB (2GB recommended)
Windows Virtualization Requirements Virtualization Software: Parallels Desktop 10 or VMware Fusion 7 or newer Virtual Machine Requirements: Microsoft Windows 8.1 64-bit, 8GB+ RAM, 512MB+ of Video memory, 100GB+ dedicated hard disk space for Windows and applications.	