

4.3 Computer Specifications

The School of Design and Construction (SDC) requires all certified students to have computers that meet certain specifications. 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

Some of the applications used by the SDC do not run on Mac OS X. Virtualization software, such as Parallels, can 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. Another option is to install and boot Windows on a separate partition using the Mac OS X utility "Boot Camp."

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.	