

Laptop Requirements for Interior Design 2018-2019 Academic Year

All new students who attend Illinois State University must bring with them a personal computer that meets the University's published minimum hardware and software standards. Incoming freshman should refer to the requirements on the TechZone website for minimum university requirements for both existing and new computers:

<http://techzone.illinoisstate.edu/shop/specs/>

Beginning with the sophomore year, 2nd semester, the bulk of student work is computer-based using software programs that demand higher amounts of memory and processor capacity. Transfer Students, this work would begin the 2nd semester of your junior year. **Computer upgrades may be necessary for your junior & senior years of study** that meet or exceed the university's required minimum specifications. Because the requirements are updated each year, we STRONGLY encourage students to delay purchase of laptops until 2nd semester sophomore year, in order to have the most current technology when it is required. Refer to the **Minimum Computer Requirements of ID Students** on the reverse side .

Where should you buy your laptop? These specifications can be met through a variety of manufacturers. Students may purchase their equipment from any source they choose.

One place to start would be to visit TechZone in the Bone Student Center (2nd floor), refer to ISU's Technology Guide (2017-18) <https://techzone.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/techguide2017.pdf> , or shop online through partner vendors that offer a discount pricing agreement with Illinois State University. The store also has discounted pricing on required academic-licensed software programs that will be required in coursework.

Recommended Applications

The following have software programs available as Free Downloads Available Online from the manufacturers. Manufacturers release new versions regularly, so students should not download the software until directed by their instructor, as the Free Trials student downloads are only available for the length of time indicated:

- **Autodesk: Revit Architecture** (Student version may be downloaded for free, and is good for 3 years)
 - <http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/revit>
- **Autodesk: AutoCAD** (Student version may be downloaded for free, and is good for 3 years)
 - <http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/autocad>
- **Trimble Sketch-Up** (This download is free to students; SketchUp Pro is available @ \$49/year to students)
 - <https://www.sketchup.com/download>
 - The same student license can be installed on both your desktop and laptop computers

In addition, you will be utilizing the Adobe Creative Suite. This software requires a paid subscription (either annually or monthly, therefore this software should not be purchased until directed by course instructors to avoid paying for extra months of service.

- Adobe [Creative Cloud](http://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html?skwcid=AL!3085!10!15343063088!20541711874&mv=search&skwcid=AL!3085!10!15343063088!20541711874:loc-190&ef_id=WZsU7QAABOi751CV:20171005200332:s) (Windows + Mac) - \$239.00 annual subscription (\$19.99/month)
 - http://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html?skwcid=AL!3085!10!15343063088!20541711874&mv=search&skwcid=AL!3085!10!15343063088!20541711874:loc-190&ef_id=WZsU7QAABOi751CV:20171005200332:s

NOTE regarding all software applications: Be sure to back-up all work saved on the cloud to a flash drive or external hard drive before your downloads expire, as you will no longer be able to access them beyond that date.

Laptop Maintenance. Technical support for all computer questions is available at ISU's TechZone. There are numerous local retail outlets and private technical support services that can assist students as well. *Students will be responsible for resolving their own laptop technical issues. Project deadlines will not be extended due to faulty equipment, slow processing, or other computer failures.* Be sure to install all recommended ISU antivirus protection; students may utilize their own products or obtain freely available software at <http://helpdesk.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/>

Minimum Computer Requirements for Interior Design (ID) Students	
NOTE: These requirements exceed the minimum recommendations for general ISU students.	
Operating System	Choose from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft® Windows® 8.1 64-bit, with Update KB2919355 Windows 8 Enterprise, Pro, or Windows 8.1 Microsoft® Windows® 10 64-bit (version 1607 and up recommended) Enterprise or Pro
CPU Type	Multi-Core Intel® Pentium®, Xeon®, or i-Series processor or AMD® equivalent with SSE2 technology. Highest affordable CPU speed rating recommended: 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 64-bit (x64) processor NOTE: Autodesk® Revit® software products will use multiple cores for many tasks, using up to 16 cores for near-photorealistic rendering operations
Memory (RAM)	8 GB RAM minimum; 16 GB preferred for larger datasets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 GB RAM is usually sufficient for a typical editing session for a single model up to approximately 300 MB on disk. This estimate is based on internal testing and customer reports. Individual models will vary in their use of computer resources and performance characteristics
Video Display	1,280 x 1,024 with true color minimum; 1920 x 1080 or greater with true color preferred <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-inch or larger built-in display
Video Adapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Graphics: Display adapter capable of 24-bit color Advanced Graphics (preferred): DirectX® 11 capable graphics card with Shader Model 5; refer to the Autodesk Certified Hardware Page (http://www.autodesk.com/revit-graphicshardware) for a list of certified as recommended by Autodesk; SketchUP requires a 3D class video card with 1GB of memory or higher
Disk Space	6 GB disk space + 4 GB disk space required for installation
Accessories	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless and wired network support 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DVD/RW capable optical drive 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External mouse with 2-buttons; MS-Mouse or 3Dconnexion® compliant device 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External hard drive (1TB minimum) for file backup (jump drives and thumb keys are NOT sufficient) 	

PC vs. Mac: All of ISU's TEC classes are taught on PC's using the Microsoft Windows platform. Instructors in both TEC & Interior Design Studio courses do not have time to troubleshoot cross-platform problems; if a student has issues with an Apple laptop, he or she will be responsible for locating outside technological support. ***The Interior Design Program strongly encourages students to purchase a PC-based laptop running Microsoft Windows.***

Refer to the following links for information about using Autodesk Revit software with Boot Camp® (part of Mac OS® X that enables you to install and run Microsoft Windows, and Windows-based applications, on a Mac® computer) or with Parallels Desktop on a Mac®:

https://knowledge.autodesk.com/sites/default/files/Autodesk%20Revit%20Mac%20FAQ_enu.pdf

Running AutoCAD products on a Mac: See "System requirements for AutoCAD for Mac"

<https://knowledge.autodesk.com/support/autocad-for-mac/learn-explore/caas/sfdcarticles/sfdcarticles/System-requirements-for-AutoCAD-for-Mac.html>