

Interior Design major Computer Requirements

All Interior Design students not owning a laptop computer with the specifications listed below will need to purchase one by the Fall semester of their second year (once accepted into the program following First Year Review). This allows students to work on their own computer in studio classes. It is strongly advised students NOT purchase a new computer ahead of the recommended time, as requirements constantly change with software and technology upgrades. Our current advice for laptop purchases includes the following minimum requirements:

Updated: 06/10/2026

Hardware

Processor: Intel or AMD® equivalent with 2.5 GHz or higher as a minimum requirement.

Note: Revit and Lumion do not officially list ARM-based processors. Devices running Windows on ARM may require emulation.

Memory: 16GB minimum (32GB or higher is recommended for optimal performance).

Hard Drive: Solid State Drive (SSD) storage with a minimum capacity of 512Gb.

Note: High-resolution images and 3D files can consume significant disk space. Additionally, software operation requires free space: Adobe Photoshop 20GB, Revit 30GB, and Lumion requires 105GB of free space.

Display: 1920x1080 (higher resolution recommended but require higher hardware specifications).

Graphics: Dedicated graphics card with at least 4 GB of video memory (VRAM).

While many laptops are configured with integrated graphics, a dedicated graphics card is needed for improved performance, especially as project complexity increases. Lumion is highly GPU-intensive and can serve as a useful benchmark when evaluating graphics performance needs.

Lumion Pro requires at least 6 GB of VRAM.

Lumion also provides GPU performance scoring for evaluating compatibility (see Lumion requirements link below).

Note: Enscape officially requires a graphics card with a minimum of 4 GB VRAM.

AutoCAD recommends a dedicated GPU to ensure optimal performance.

Pointing Device: external mouse with at least 3 buttons.

Optional: 3- or 4-year warranty / protection plan.

Software System Requirement Links:

Autodesk AutoCad 2027:

(<https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdcarticles/sfdcarticles/System-requirements-for-AutoCAD-2027-including-Specialized-Toolsets.html>)

Autodesk Revit 2027 system requirements:

(<https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdcarticles/sfdcarticles/System-requirements-for-Revit-2027-products.html>)

Adobe Photoshop v. 27.x system requirements:

(<https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/desktop/get-started/technical-requirements-installation/adobe-photoshop-on-desktop-technical-requirements.html>)

Enscape system requirements: (<https://support.chaos.com/hc/en-us/articles/31808932235281-Enscape-System-requirements-Recommended-hardware>)

Lumion Pro system requirements:

(<https://lumion.com/product/system-requirements#pro>)

MAC vs. PC: With the current state of software, the Department recommends purchasing a Windows-based computer. This is largely due to the fact that Autodesk Revit does not run directly on a Macintosh operating system. This means that students who choose to purchase Apple computers will be responsible for configuring their Apple device and virtualization software (Parallels / VMWare) to allow use of Windows environment; additional cost will be needed for virtualization and Windows licenses. The decision is the students to make, and students will be responsible for ensuring the computer's compatibility, installation, and configuration as per Autodesk Revit requirements. The faculty will not be able to troubleshoot student's personal Apple computers.

Software

We advise students not to purchase the software required by the Department until fully accepted into the program (after a successful First Year Review). Students should have computers purchased prior to enrollment in Studio I (or during the first few weeks of the semester).

Students will be expected to be familiar with the Adobe Creative Suite during their first-year classes. An active subscription should be purchased by the entrance into Studio I; Adobe provides student subscription discounts. Autodesk products (AutoCAD, Revit, etc.) are available to students free of charge through Autodesk Education Community; Autodesk software will be used starting with CAD I and throughout the program. Your CAD faculty will provide more details during courses. We do not recommend downloading this software prior to taking these classes, as software upgrades are frequent.

Printer

Students are strongly advised to purchase a desktop color printer with scanning capabilities. Printing paper size is 8.5 x 11.

Students are encouraged to find a suitable scanning application that can be added to the phone that they carry.

Additional needs

Students may want to purchase an external hard drive to backup their laptop. Also, have a couple of thumb/flash drives on hand to easily transport information between the computers in the department and your laptop.