



STUDENT LAPTOP REQUIREMENT

All students entering the Department of Landscape Architecture are required to own a laptop or mobile workstation computer for use in studios and courses. **CBE Computing** provides information on minimum hardware specifications and advice for purchasing computers. Students who plan to use the equipment they currently own must assure that it meets the CBE's minimum specifications. The **University Bookstore Tech Center** offers students competitive and, in some cases, significantly discounted prices on hardware and software.

Computer Purchase Suggestions

CBE Computing provides information on minimum hardware specifications and advice for purchasing computers. Both Macs and Windows PCs work fine at the UW. CBE Computing does not have the resources to provide extensive support for personally-owned computers. However, they do have expertise with both platforms. If you want to run ArcGIS (or another application that only runs in a Windows environment), it's easiest to buy a Windows PC. However, it is possible to run Windows programs on a Macintosh (note that you may run into more issues). You can use Parallels Desktop, VMware Fusion, or Bootcamp.

For Windows PCs, the CBE has had very good luck with the Dell and Lenovo laptops. [Special academic pricing](#) for Dell laptops is available either through the University Bookstore or [online](#). Student discounts for Lenovo laptops are available [online](#). The University Bookstore offers [special academic pricing](#) for Macs as well. All Apple laptops will meet specifications; the MacBook Pro laptop line is generally more powerful, while the MacBook is generally cheaper.

As a new student starting in the fall, you can get academic discounts from the University Bookstore by taking your UW acceptance letter (along with some ID) with you when you visit.

The UW IT Connect provides enrolled UW students with free or discounted software, including most Microsoft programs at: <http://www.washington.edu/itconnect/wares/uware/>

University Bookstore:

http://www.bookstore.washington.edu/tech_center/tech_center.taf?

Tips from the Computing Specialists in the College of Built Environments:

http://www.be.washington.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/BE-Computing_computer-purchase-tips.pdf