

STUDENT PERSONAL COMPUTER RECOMMENDATION

NOTE: We encourage students to consider getting a touchscreen laptop or tablet (in addition to a computer). We anticipate some remote instruction this academic year and this function has proved helpful for drawing on the screen for desk crits and related activities.

We recommend that all students entering the Department of Landscape Architecture own a laptop or mobile workstation computer for use in studios and courses. If purchasing a personal computer is not an option, there are options for long-term laptop rental on campus ([UW Student Technology Loan Program](#) and [CBE Student Loaner Program](#)). Students who have been impacted by COVID-19 and are unable to secure a laptop through one of the loaner programs can also request funds to purchase a home computer through the CBE Student Emergency Fund. Contact your adviser for help requesting funds.

[CBE Computing](#) has information on recommended minimum hardware specifications and advice for purchasing computers. Students who plan to use the equipment they currently own should confirm that it meets these recommended minimum specifications.

Computer Information

Both Macs and Windows PCs are supported 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 Mac (although 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 [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 Department HIGHLY ENCOURAGES students to purchase an external hard drive (1 TB is ideal) or get access to sufficient cloud storage for regular backup. Students losing files because of computers crashing is one of the most devastating and stressful things that happens.

Software Information

Students in the Department of Landscape Architecture will use a variety of software, primarily:

- Microsoft Office Suite
- Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat)
- AutoCAD
- McNeel Rhinoceros + Grasshopper
- ArcGIS

Student may use other software such as Revit, Lumion ([see Lumion recommended system requirements](#)), video editing software.

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/>

CBE Computing

general information and tips: <http://be.washington.edu/spaces/computing/>

access to software and software training tools: <http://intranet.be.uw.edu/facultystaff/timely-resources/>