

LAPTOP REQUIREMENTS

Below are two sets of specifications: a minimum and a recommended configuration. In general, purchasing a computer with a faster processor, more memory, and a better graphics card is worth the extra investment as it will extend the useful life of the machine.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON GRAPHICS CAPABILITIES

If you intend to use the laptop for graphics-intensive applications – such as 3D animation, video editing, or photorealistic rendering – you should consider purchasing a laptop with a Class 1, 2, or 3 graphics card (GPU) as shown in this cross reference list: <https://www.notebookcheck.net/Comparison-of-Laptop-Graphics-Cards.130.0.html> . Class 4 and lower cards are not suitable for graphics-intensive work. *Note that lower-end Microsoft Surface and MacBook laptops have Class 4 graphics cards.*

MINIMUM LAPTOP CONFIGURATION:

Operating System: Windows 7 or Mac OS X Yosemite
Processor (CPU): 2.2 GHz Intel Core i5
Memory: 8 GB RAM
3 Button Mouse
Software: Adobe Creative Cloud

RECOMMENDED LAPTOP CONFIGURATION:

Operating System: Windows 10 or Mac OS X Sierra
Processor (CPU): ≥ 2.8 GHz Intel Core i7
Memory: ≥ 16 GB RAM
Hard Drive: Hybrid or Solid State (SSD) drive
3 Button Mouse
Software: Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office 365

RECOMMENDED EXTRAS FOR EITHER CONFIGURATION:

AppleCare or equivalent protection plan
Backup Hard Drive (USB 3.0, USB-C, or Thunderbolt recommended)
Carrying Case or Laptop Sleeve
HDMI, USB, and other adapters as required
(or a multi-function hub such as this one <http://amzn.to/2o5Ruo5>)

PURCHASING

Computers, software, and accessories can be purchased at a discount through the FSU book store on campus or via their website: <http://www.bkstr.com/floridastatestore/shop/technology/computers-and-tablets>

Autodesk provides free software for students, including Maya, Fusion 360, and Tinkercad:
<http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/all>