

College of Architecture Laptop Policy

2020 – 2021 Academic Year

Computers now are an integral tool to every professional and provide assistance with a myriad of everyday tasks including communication, advanced study and analysis tools.

We strive to become a national leader in technology. Prior to the implementation of the laptop policy, over 85% of our students enter the college with computers. This policy's goal is to increase the availability of this essential technology to every student.

In addition, over 50% of the colleges in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture have laptop policies that start with first year students.

Today's students need a laptop as an integral tool to their learning experience and will utilize the laptop even if they change majors.

As a requirement of the College, the laptop can be included in available financial aid and loan programs.

Laptop Requirement

Laptops are required for all undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Architecture at the beginning of their first year. Software requirements vary by division (see below).

Support Infrastructure

Information Technology and the College of Architecture have partnered to provide a support infrastructure for the laptop policy. This includes wireless coverage, repair services and network file storage.

Wireless: The College of Architecture (Gould Hall) has wireless coverage throughout. To connect, simply choose the network called “WIFI@OU”. If you need assistance with connecting to wireless, please call 405-325-HELP.

Available Software and Storage Solutions: The University offers Office 365 free for all students. Installer can be found at portal.office.com. Students also have access to 1TB of storage space through OneDrive. This drive can be accessed through the portal website. For more information regarding available resources please call 405-325-HELP or visit ou.edu/ouit

Repair Services: The nearest IT Service Centers is available at OU Bizzell Library basement LL1, provides College of Architecture students support for all their computing needs. The IT Service Center is a Dell and Apple certified warranty repair center, but repairs all brands of computers. This service is free of charge, but students must pay for any parts or additional software required. There are also three other IT Service Centers on campus, located in the Engineering Laboratory room 201, One U (Located at the Union) and Couch Practice Center room W146. All Service Centers are open Monday through Friday 8 AM to 5 PM.

Network Storage: All students will have access to their Microsoft OneDrive, which provides up to 1TB of storage space.

Financial Aid Help: To help aid in the purchase of a new laptop, students may apply for the [Robert B. Lewis Computer Loan](#).

Students can also get up to a 12% discount by purchasing a Dell laptop at itstore.ou.edu or www.dell.com/ou.

Minimum Laptop Functional Requirement

1. Ability to send and receive email including attachments
2. Ability to browse the network and download files
3. Ability to protect against network and e-mail based viruses/worms (anti-virus applications, personal firewalls, etc.).

Recommended system*

* Additional specifications for each division below.

We recommend PC as the primary platform for work in the college. For those choosing to use a MAC, students will be required to run Windows 10 in order for software required in respective departments to be available for use in class. Students are responsible for finding the best method to install Windows on non-PC computers. Students should expect to allocate at least 100GB of space to Windows on a Mac. Software versions installed on student laptops need to be the same versions installed in the GCA computer lab unless noted otherwise.

Division of Architecture Guidelines:

Recommended Minimum Laptop Configuration:

We recommend PC as the primary platform for work in the college. Architecture students are warned that some software will run unacceptably slow or not at all on a MAC and as such a MAC is not recommended.

Recommended Minimum Laptop Configuration:

Processor	Intel ® Core ™ i7-7560U Processor (4M Cache, up to 3.80 GHz) or better
Memory	16GB of RAM or better
Hard Drive	128 GB HDD minimum
Graphics Card	2 GB Graphics Card (DirectX 11 Compatible)
Miscellaneous:	-802.11G/N wireless or better -USB-A Ports -Built-in Speakers -1920 x 1080 resolution display -Windows 10 64-bit

**Note on Hardware Lifespan:*

Considering the five-year length of the architecture degree, it is suggested that students will experience the normal technological life span of computers and should plan on upgrading to a more up-to-date model as usage increases in the upper level studios.

Architecture Software Requirements:

- Microsoft Office
- AutoCAD
- Autodesk Revit
- 3ds Max Design
- Adobe CS Suite
- Rhinoceros (includes Grasshopper)
- SketchUp Pro
- Lumion (suggested/class specific)

Division of Interior Design Guidelines:

Students in the Interior Design Division use laptops starting in their freshman year for an array of daily functions that include email, internet research, paper writing, and posting of course assignments and projects . The use of computers increases in the beginning of the second semester of their freshman year with applications in computer aided drafting, modeling, rendering and animation. Students will be required to use their laptops during studio and lecture classes from the second semester of the freshman year continuing through the end of the senior year. **Students will also be required to have a two terabyte external hard drive or equivalent cloud storage at the**

beginning of the second semester of their freshman year. It is suggested that undergraduate students will be required to enter the program with a laptop that meets the College of Architecture system specifications. Graduate students will be required to enter the first semester of their first year with a laptop meeting the system specifications above. Students should expect to upgrade memory or speed over the recommended system specifications as usage increases in the upper level studios.

Recommended Minimum Laptop Configuration:

Processor	Intel ® Core ™ i7-7560U Processor (4M Cache, up to 3.80 GHz) or better
Memory	16GB of RAM or better
Hard Drive	128 GB HDD minimum
Graphics Card	2 GB Graphics Card (DirectX 11 Compatible) or better
Miscellaneous:	-802.11G/N wireless or better -USB-A Ports -Built-in Speakers -1920 x 1080 resolution display -Windows 10 64-bit

Interior Design Software Requirements:

- Microsoft Office
- AutoCAD Architecture
- Autodesk Revit
- Adobe CS Suite
- ComCheck
- Lumion
- SketchUp (free version)
- AGi32
- ElumTools

** Software versions installed on student laptops need to be the same versions installed in the GCA computer lab unless noted otherwise.*

Division of Landscape Architecture

Guidelines:

Students are required to use their laptops, with software below, the first semester of the Landscape Architecture program.

Recommended Minimum Laptop Configuration:

Processor	4th Gen Intel Core i5 2.6GHz or better
Memory	8GB of RAM or better
Hard Drive	128GB HDD minimum
Graphics Card	1GB GPU or better
Miscellaneous:	-802.11G/N wireless or better -USB-A Ports -Built-in Speakers -1920 x 1080 resolution display -Windows 10 64-bit

Landscape Architecture Software Requirements:

- Microsoft Office
- AutoCAD Architecture
- Adobe CS Suite
- SketchUp Pro
- Google Earth
- Student license ArcGIS 10.0 or later (instructions for mac users <http://edcommunity.esri.com/software/mac/>)
- Esri City Engine
- Land F/X

Division of Regional and City Planning

Guidelines:

Students are required to use their laptops for basic word processing and data analysis the first semester of the Regional & City Planning program. Students are required to use their laptops with GIS and related supporting software during their first semester. Some software may be provided free of cost by the instructor when possible. Software listed below is Microsoft Windows compatible only.

Recommended Minimum Laptop Configuration:

Processor	4th Gen Intel Core i5 2.6GHz or better
Memory	8GB of RAM or better
Hard Drive	128GB HDD minimum
Graphics Card	1GB GPU or better
Miscellaneous:	-802.11G/N wireless or better -USB-A Ports -Built-in Speakers -1920 x 1080 resolution display -Windows 10 64-bit

Regional & City Planning Software Requirements:

- Microsoft Office
- Student license ArcGIS 10.2.2 or later (first semester of program)
- SketchUp Pro (first semester of program)
- Google Earth

Haskell and Irene Lemon Construction Science Division Guidelines:

Students in the Construction Science Division use laptops starting in the first semester of their freshman year for an array of daily functions that include email, internet research and paper writing. The use of computers increases in the freshmen second semester with the Computers in Construction course in which students learn CAD and 3D modeling, along with traditional spreadsheet software.

Additional software with intense processing and memory requirements will be utilized as students advance through the program. It is suggested that undergraduate students enter the program with a minimally equipped laptop with the CoA system specifications required in the second semester. Laptops meeting the system specifications above will be required second semester of the freshmen year. Graduate students however will be required to enter the first semester of their first year with a laptop meeting the system specifications above. Students may discover a need to increase memory or speed over the recommended system specifications and should be considered with the initial laptop purchase.

Construction Science Hardware Requirements: PC or MAC with Windows* (Students choosing Mac must have Windows)

**Note:*

- *Many of the specific software required for the discipline of Construction Science is not supported on a Mac and therefore students may have issues with functionality and compatibility.*
- *Certain courses may require the use of a webcam, please consider laptops with a built-in webcam, otherwise, you may be asked to purchase an additional webcam.*

Recommended Minimum Laptop Configuration:

Processor	Intel ® Core™ i7-3840QM CPU @ 2.80GHz or better
Memory	16GB of RAM or better
Hard Drive	128 GB HDD minimum or better
Graphics Card	1 GB Graphics Card (DirectX Compatible) or better

Miscellaneous:

-802.11G/N wireless or better
-USB-A Ports
-Built-in Speakers
-1920 x 1080 resolution display
-Windows 10 64-bit

Construction Science Software Requirements:

- Autodesk Revit
- Autodesk Navisworks Manage
- Bluebeam Revu eXtreme
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Project
- Primavera P6
- SketchUp Pro
- Synchro Pro