A Guide to the College of Architecture
First-Year Student Computer Recommendations
2021-2022 Academic Year

1. Is a computer/software required as an incoming first-year student?

No. However, we *strongly encourage* you to acquire a computer and software at the start of your first year.

Instruction in digital technologies will begin in the second week of your first-year architecture courses. In the fall semester, you will primarily use software from the Adobe® Creative Cloud®, Rhino and Microsoft Office Suite.

We encourage you to plan ahead to make sure the system is working properly, and all software has been loaded before classes begin in the fall.

Students can choose to rely on the shared computing facilities available through the University; however, the Sam Fox School does not have extensive facilities for all students.

2. Which computer systems and platforms are recommended for incoming first-year students?

The Sam Fox School recommends either a PC laptop or a MacBook Pro laptop with a Windows operating system. Based on industry standards, our architecture curriculum uses software that is designed primarily for a Windows operating system.

3. Can I buy a computer/software when I arrive at School?

Yes. Washington University has a campus store that sells computer systems that meet or exceed our minimum recommended specifications; more information can be found at *www.wubookstore.com*. In addition, there are local stores that are readily accessible by campus shuttles or city bus service. All software can be purchased and downloaded via the Internet.

4. What should I do if I can't afford to purchase a computer/software at this time?

We understand that some students may need assistance in purchasing a computer. If you would like to learn more about your options, we encourage you to speak with a counselor in Student Financial Services (SFS). Counselors can be reached at 314.935.5900, 888.547.6670, or financial@wustl.edu.

5. Can I use a computer/software I already have?

Yes, but you will need to make sure that the computer you have matches as closely as possible the attributes of the computers we recommend (see Item 10). You are also encouraged to acquire the recommended software listed in Item 12.

7. Will I receive any training from the Sam Fox School?

There will be workshops at the start of the academic year that will include:
a. Network connections for Internet and printing
b. Best practices for computer, software use, maintenance, backups, and installation
c. Tours of resources throughout the facilities

In addition our Information Technology team is available for one-on-one consultation by appointment. Students may also contact

WashU's Student Technology Services team, located near the residential halls, for support. Software training will be provided in various courses. For more information visit insidesamfox.wustl.edu

8. Will a computer last for all four years at the Sam Fox School?

Due to advances in technology and subsequent upgrades in software, you may need to acquire a new, more powerful computer in your junior or senior year in order to complete your area of study.

9. Are there recommended vendors we should contact?

Optional vendors that provide educational discounts are listed with each item of hardware and software (Items 10 and 12). You may also purchase the required software at samfox.onthehub.com.

10. What is the recommended <u>hardware</u>?

The Sam Fox School recommends either a PC laptop or a MacBook Pro laptop with a Windows operating system. Please note M1 chip will not run Windows OS; The minimum specifications for both types of computers are listed below; these are the specifications as of Spring 2021:

- Intel or AMD Processor 2.5 GHz (this is the minimum)
- No M1 chip processor for Mac
- Integrated Wireless-N Network Card
- RAM 16 GB (more if possible)
- HDD 500 GB hard drive (or higher)
- Video card with 1 GB of dedicated RAM (or higher)
- Windows "Professional" Operating system

The School also highly recommends:
- A minimum of a 15-inch display (some now do 16 which is good also)
- External hard drive of 1 TB, for secure storage of backup files
- Computer lock for use in studios
- Damage warranty provided by manufacturer

Optional Vendors:
Dell Vendor: dell.com/WUSTL
Mac Vendor: https://www.apple.com/us-hed/shop

11. What recommendations do you have for a Windows operating system for an Apple computer?

If you purchase an Apple computer, please note that you will need to reformat the hard drive to run the Windows operating system. If you are not familiar with this process, we advise that you seek support directly from Apple. We recommend that you format your Apple computer to run the Windows operating system prior to the start of classes.

In some cases, students may choose to have the computer function as an Apple and a PC. We do not advise students to take this course of action, unless your Apple computer has greater processing power and graphics capabilities. Our IT team is available for one-on-one consultation upon arrival if you need

direct assistance.

To download the Windows operating systems, go here:
samfox.onthehub.com

12. What is the recommended software?

Adobe® Creative Cloud®
We now have a unique Adobe price for $50 per year that is billed to your WU student account and a license emailed to you in August of each year. This a required cost through the University.
(includes the following)
Photoshop, Lightroom, Illustrator, InDesign, Experience Design (Beta), Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, Project Felix, Dreamweaver, Acrobat Pro, Adobe Muse, Animate, Adobe Audition, Bridge, Character Animator (Beta), Media Encoder, Fuse (Beta), Flash Builder, InCopy, Prelude, Adobe Spark, Scout, Story Plus, PhoneGap Build, Creative Cloud, Gaming SDK, Extension Manager, ExtendScript Toolkit

Robert McNeel Rhino 7.0
V-Ray 5.0 for Rhino
Rhino Vendor: http://www.novedge.com/products/2572
V-Ray Vendor: http://www.novedge.com/products/6355

AutoCAD (free at student site)
Vendor: http://www.autodesk.com/education/student-software

Microsoft Office Suite (free for WashU students)
Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook

Microsoft Office software is free from WashU and can be downloaded once you have a WashU email and log-in account by visiting: http://email.wustl.edu/office-apps/