

University of Wisconsin - Madison

School of Human Ecology

Department of Design Studies

Interior Architecture Program

Laptop Guidelines | 2020

A laptop computer is *strongly* recommended for all Interior Architecture students.

Operating System | Mac OS or Windows?

The Interior Architecture program *strongly* recommends that IA students adopt the **Windows** platform, which is standard in the fields of architecture and interior design. Windows 10, 64 bit is required. Using a Mac for Interior Architecture classes will be done at the user's own risk, as some commonly used industry standard programs require Windows to operate. If the need arises, such as the COVID-19 safer-at-home order, you may have to install software that is only available on Windows on your personal computer. This means Mac users would need to run Windows using Boot Camp or Parallels, which takes extra storage on a Mac. If you already own a Mac, be sure that it has the storage capacity to run Windows and meets the Windows requirements.

Specifications

	Minimum	Recommended
Operating System	Windows 10 64-bit	Windows 10 64-bit
Processor	Intel: 8th, 9th or 10th gen i5 or i7 AMD: Ryzen 5 4500u	Intel i7 10th gen AMD Ryzen 7 4800H <i>Highest affordable CPU speed rating recommended.</i>
RAM	8 GB	16 GB or more
Display Resolution	1920 x 1080 pixels	UltraHigh (4k) Definition Monitor
Graphics Card	Any Nvidia / AMD graphics card for any Intel CPU laptop. AMD Ryzen 4500u meets minimum requirements for integrated graphics.	NVIDIA: Any Quadro / GTX series / RTX series AMD: Any FirePro / RX 5500 / RX 5600
Video RAM	2-4GB	4-6GB or more
Storage	500 GB + SSD	500 GB (or more) + SSD
Disk Space	30 GB free disk space	30 GB free disk space
Mouse	External mouse (wired or wireless)	External mouse (wired or wireless)

Links:

DoIT Software Library: <https://it.wisc.edu/services/software/>

DoIT Helpdesk: <https://it.wisc.edu/help>

Office of Cybersecurity: <http://www.cio.wisc.edu/security-secure.aspx>

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Suggested Laptops as of 08/07/2020

AMD

Asus Zephyrus G14 - \$1,450

<https://www.bestbuy.com/site/asus-rog-zephyrus-g14-14-gaming-laptop-amd-ryzen-9-16gb-memory-nvidia-geforce-rtx-2060-max-q-1tb-ssd-moonlight-white/6403816.p?skuld=6403816>

Lenovo E14 - \$1,100

<https://www.lenovo.com/au/en/laptops/thinkpad/thinkpad-edge/ThinkPad-E14-Gen2-AMD/p/22TPE14E4A2>

Acer Swift 3 - \$680

<https://www.amazon.com/Acer-Octa-Core-Processor-Fingerprint-SF314-42-R9YN/dp/B086KKKT15/>

Intel

XPS 15 - \$1,350

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/shop/computer-deals-electronics-on-sale/xps-15-laptop/spd/xps-15-7590-laptop/xnber5cr653ps>

HP Pavilion - \$879

<https://www.amazon.com/Pavilion-Touchscreen-Computer-802-11AC-Bluetooth/dp/B088PB2868/>

HP Envy - \$1,240

<https://www.amazon.com/Envy-17t-10th-Gen-Pro/dp/B07XMM5Q7H/>