



**MICHAEL
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COLLEGE**

BFA INTERIOR DESIGN

Laptop Requirement

Platform:

PC *required*.

Processor:

Intel Core i7 minimum

Processor Speed:

2 Ghz minimum

Operating System:

Windows 10

RAM Capacity:

16 GB minimum (32 GB preferred)

Video Card:

With 2GB dedicated memory (NVIDIA brand is recommended)

Hard Drive:

500 GB (1 TB preferred) HDD (for greater storage)

OR 256 GB SSD (for faster, better performance)

Screen Size:

By student's preference, however

15" screen with HD resolution recommended or

17" with minimum HD resolution (1920x1080 pixels)

Software:

- MS Office (Edge, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Mail)

- Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, and Acrobat recommended)

(Subscriptions available to students for \$19/month through Adobe.com)

- AutoCAD (latest edition available FREE to students through AutoDesk.com, needed approximately at end of first year)
- Revit Architecture (latest edition available FREE to students through AutoDesk.com, needed approximately at end of second year)
- SketchUp (latest edition available FREE to students through Trimble.com, needed approximately at end of second year)

Peripherals:

3-button wireless mouse

Optional (but recommended):

1. 16GB or higher USB flash drive for file transfers, backup, etc.
 2. 7200 rpm 500 GB external storage minimum (1 TB recommended).
- OR-
3. Internet, cloud, or other 3rd party file backup system (ex. One Drive app for Windows 10)

What to do if you only have access to a Mac:

Recent Mac laptops (MacBook, Air, etc.) have a program installed called Boot Camp. This allows the computer's hard drive to be partitioned, meaning you can have a Mac side running OS, and PC side running Windows. However, the partition favors the Mac side (of course) to a point where you can install Windows (purchased separately) but you will not have room for much else. In this case, you have to take the laptop back to the Mac store or to an IT professional and have them re-partition the drive so that it is at least 50% Mac and 50% PC, but a higher percentage dedicated to PC is suggested. At this point you can then install all of the required software on the PC side and run it correctly. Unfortunately, this process is not free, and so you should weigh the cost of this versus buying a new PC laptop, which are more affordable than Macs.

Note: If you do this you will have the ability to work with Mac and PC programs, but not at the same time. In other words, the Mac side has to close in order for you to open the PC side (and vice versa), which becomes very annoying if you are trying to use some Mac-based software and some PC-based software. This is why the Interior Design program has decided to use only PC-based software. While there are Mac versions of AutoCAD and Sketchup and Revit, they do NOT look or act in the same manner as their original PC versions.

Purchasing Options:

The Kean bookstore (located on the 1st floor of GLAB) carries an MGC-approved laptop which has all of the features listed above. Furthermore, when using this method, students can use financial aid to purchase the laptop.