

2023 SoA Laptop + Other Hardware Requirements:

LAPTOPS:

Laptops are mandatory for School of Architecture students. We typically advise students to get a PC laptop (in other words, running windows). You can get a MacBook Pro (higher-end specs w/ graphics card, max RAM and processor), however, we should mention that some of the software you will be using *only* runs in Windows. It is possible to run Windows on a Mac, even if it's not exactly optimal to do so. That being said, here are the necessary specs.

Operating System:

For Revit you will need Windows 10 (64 bit)* or 11

Adobe Creative Cloud and Rhino will run on WindowsOS (64 bit) or Mac OS

** If you purchase a MacBook Pro, you also need to purchase Windows 10 (64-bit) separately and install through Parallels. If you purchase a Mac, it needs to be a new MacBook Pro--anything else is too slow for most of the software.*

Recognizing that everyone has a different budget that they are able to spend on technology, here are several tiers for your decision-making. Typically, you get what you pay for. It is also recommended that you read any consumer reports, technology reviews, and/or customer reviews before making a large purchase.

Minimum Requirements:

PC:

OS: 64-bit Microsoft Windows 10 or Windows 11.

CPU: Intel i-Series, Xeon, AMD Ryzen, Ryzen Threadripper PRO. 2.5GHz or Higher. Highest CPU GHz recommended.

Memory: 8 GB RAM

Video Adapter: Basic Graphics: Display adapter capable of 24-bit color. Advanced Graphics: DirectX® 11 capable graphics card with Shader Model 5 and a minimum of 4GB of video memory.

MacBook Pro: 10-Core CPU, 16-Core GPU, 16GB Unified Memory, 512GB SSD Storage, 16-core Neural Engine, 14-inch Liquid Retina XDR display

*Running Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit) will require purchasing and installing Parallels Desktop

<https://kb.parallels.com/125375>

Middle-tier:

PC:

OS: 64-bit Microsoft Windows 10 or Windows 11.

CPU: Intel i-Series, Xeon, AMD Ryzen, Ryzen Threadripper PRO. 2.5GHz or Higher. Highest CPU GHz recommended.

Memory: 16 GB RAM

Video Adapter: DirectX 11 capable graphics card with Shader Model 5 and a minimum of 4GB of video memory.

MacBook Pro: 12-Core CPU, 19-Core GPU, 16GB Unified Memory, 1TB SSD Storage, 16-core Neural Engine, 16-inch Liquid Retina XDR display

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<https://kb.parallels.com/125375>

Higher performance-tier:

PC:

OS: 64-bit Microsoft Windows 10 or Windows 11.

CPU: Intel i-Series, Xeon, AMD Ryzen, Ryzen Threadripper PRO. 2.5GHz or Higher. Highest CPU GHz recommended.

Memory: 32 GB RAM

Video Adapter: DirectX 11 capable graphics card with Shader Model 5 and a minimum of 4GB of video memory.

MacBook Pro: 12-Core CPU, 38-Core GPU, 32GB Unified Memory, 1TB SSD Storage, 16-core Neural Engine, 16-inch Liquid Retina XDR display

*Running Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit) will require purchasing and installing Parallels Desktop

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ADDITIONAL HARDWARE:

Mouse: 2-3 buttons plus scroller/wheel, or specialized mouse if preferred

USB Thumb Drive: At least 32 GB

External Hard Drive: 1 TB or higher preferred, 500 GB is acceptable

OTHER NEEDS BEFORE SEMESTER STARTS:

ACE Login Credentials: These are your login credentials for school computers and printing/plotting.

Student ID (Rebel) Card: This is your student ID card, your UNLV library card, and your means to purchase laser cutting time and studio supplies.