

REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

Indiana University's Retail & Design Studies programs strongly believe in utilizing computer technology as a student learning tool. The industries that we help prepare students to enter following graduation expect their employees to have a baseline understanding of computers and specialized design software upon entering the workforce. Further, our department recognizes that the increasing penetration of digital presentation technologies across design disciplines requires us to promote stronger technology and communication skills among our graduates.

Beginning with the Fall 2008 semester, the Interior Design program will require students taking Design Studies courses to own a laptop computer. All of our Design Studies coursework will include in-class computer assignments.

If you do not already own one, a laptop computer will prove to be a worthwhile investment. The IU-Bloomington campus and all undergraduate residence halls feature wireless network connectivity. Not only will you be able to use your computer for our coursework, but for other classes, research needs and online communications.

We recognize that purchasing a laptop computer is a personal decision that each student and family needs to evaluate. This information is designed only to guide that decision. However, there are some design-specific software programs required for certain Design Studies courses, so please be certain to read these requirements carefully before making any purchase decisions.

If you have any questions about software requirements for Design Studies, please consult your course instructor.

COMPUTER RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend purchasing a Windows PC laptop computer. MAC laptop computers can be used with Boot Camp partition software or virtualization software such as Parallels Desktop for Macintosh 4.0 or Vmware Fusion 2.0 (note: these products are not supported by Autodesk; virtualization software has not been tested with Autodesk products).

hardware (laptop) minimum requirements:

- 120-160GB hard drive
- 3GB RAM
- CD- RW/DVD reader combo drive
- 256MB video card
- 10BaseT Ethernet
- 56K Modem
- 802.11b/g Wireless required
- 15" Screen
- Windows XP Professional or Vista (use with Boot Camp software on MAC)
- Estimated price range for laptop computer and software: \$1,400 - \$2,200

If you are interested in purchasing a desktop computer for use outside of the classroom, or wish to upgrade an existing desktop computer, we would recommend the following hardware standards:

hardware (desktop) minimum recommendations:

- 500GB hard drive
- 4GB RAM
- CD-RW/DVD reader combo drive
- 256MB video card
- 10BaseT Ethernet
- 56K Modem
- 802.11b/g Wireless
- 19" Flat screen CRT monitor (1280 X 1024 USVGA) preferred
- Windows XP Professional or Vista
- Estimated price range for desktop hardware without software or peripherals: \$1,100 - \$2,100

WHERE TO BUY A COMPUTER

There are many places where you can purchase computers. Electronics stores like Best Buy, and H. H. Gregg typically stock low-cost PCs from various reputable manufacturers. Additionally, you can acquire a high-quality machine at a reasonable price through mail-order companies such as [Dell](#) and [Gateway](#). Indiana University typically has agreements with vendors to make systems available to incoming students at a discount. Check the [Computer Guide](#) for available deals before shopping elsewhere.

DESIGN STUDIES SOFTWARE

Interior design software requirement:

Software programs are available at the Indiana University-Bloomington Computer Connection. Located in the Indiana Memorial Union near the bookstore, the Computer Connection is a one-stop source for computer-related products at Indiana University. They carry a wide selection of computer-related products, including hardware, software and peripherals, many with education discounts.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe CS 4 • Microsoft Office • Google Sketch-up (optional) • Autodesk drafting software | <p>Design Premium Creative Suite
Free to IU students through IU Ware</p> <p>Free to IU students through IU Ware
(disks available for purchase at IU Bookstore locations)</p> <p>Free download available online through Sketch-up</p> <p>Most recent versions of AutoCAD for Architecture are available for free download through the Autodesk Student Community (disks available for purchase through Autodesk resellers such as Studica)</p> |
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QUESTIONS

For general advice regarding a computer purchase, please contact the [University Information Technology Services \(UIT\) Support Center](#) at (812) 855-6789 or send an e-mail to ucshelp@indiana.edu. The UIT Support Center is in the Indiana Memorial Union, Room M084 (directly across the hall from the arcade pool tables on the ground floor just outside of the Commons area) and is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You may also visit their new location in the [Information Commons](#) of the Wells Library (first floor). Their hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to midnight; Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to midnight.

NETWORK ACCESS IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

All Bloomington campus undergraduate residence halls have active network connections, and students living on campus do not need a modem to take advantage of campus network resources. Instead, dorm residents need to make sure their PC or laptop/notebook computer is "Ethernet ready." This may require the purchase of an Ethernet card if your system does not have a built-in Ethernet connection.

When you move in to your residence hall, be sure to pick up a station cable and installation instructions in the main lobby. A computer consultant will be available in the lobby of each residence hall near the front/center desk to distribute these items and provide account information during the week before classes. Additional information can be found in the [Computer Guide](#).