

Welcome to all incoming IIT College of Architecture students. As part of our mission to be ahead of the technology advancements and shifts in Architectural Digital Design, the College of Architecture recommends all students purchase a personal laptop. It is strongly suggested that each student own a laptop capable of running any curricular software for the upcoming academic year and beyond. To ensure that your machine meets these expectations, it should meet the College's suggested technical specifications. To aid in your decision making process, the College recommends the following requirements for your hardware and software.

Much of the required software can be downloaded for free. Three software applications or bundles to be purchased are Microsoft Office 2013, Rhinoceros 5.0 SR9 and the Adobe Creative Suite 6 Design Standard.

**Microsoft Office for Free:** Microsoft's Office 365 Education for Students is available for free to students who are enrolled at qualifying schools-and Illinois Tech is a qualifying school! This allows you to install the complete current version of Microsoft Office and Office Apps on up to 5 PCs or Macs and on other mobile devices, including Windows tablets and iPads. Go to <https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education> to subscribe. Also, this will give you an IIT OneDrive account with ONE TERABYTE of storage.

**AutoDesk:** Several Autodesk applications are also required and can be downloaded and installed free of charge by creating a student account at:  
<http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/featured>

**Adobe Creative Cloud:** Enrolled students get special discounts off of the Creative Cloud buy signing up for an Adobe ID.  
<http://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html?promoid=65FN7X8B&mv=other#ctaLink>

**Rhinoceros 3D:** Educational pricing on Rhino software is available to students once proof of status is provided. <http://www.rhino3d.com/edu>

Also of importance is anti-virus software. Many new laptops come preloaded with one. IIT provides a licensed version of McAfee VirusScan for all students.

Please contact Carey Lee in the College of Architecture if you have additional questions about your computer needs. Please email [coatechservices@iit.edu](mailto:coatechservices@iit.edu) or telephone 312.567.5711.

College of Architecture degree programs do not require students to own a laptop. However, it will enhance your student experience to have one. Standards below reflect suggested hardware specifications for student laptops. These specifications exceed the minimum requirements in most cases, but have been selected for desired performance and machine longevity.

**Operating System:** Window 10 Pro, Education, Home; Windows 7

**Processor:** Intel i7 Processor or equivalent quad core processor

**RAM:** 8+GB RAM

**Hard Disk:** 500+GB Hard Drive

**Graphics Card:** 1GB DDR3 (GPU)

120+GB Portable/External Hard Drive

These hardware recommendations are for PCs only. If you wish to use a Mac, it is recommended that you purchase a MacBook Pro. You will need to set it up for dual-boot or install Bootcamp, as some applications only run in Windows. Transferring files to CoA computers from a Mac can also be problematic. Be aware, running more than one OS on the same machine can adversely affect its performance.