

GVSU Art and Design Department

Student Computer Recommendations for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

STUDIO ART AND ART EDUCATION MAJORS

Given current professional visual practices, the Art and Design Department strongly recommends that Art and Design majors in Studio Art and Art Education bring a laptop computer with them when they begin classes in the department. Apple Macintosh computers are used primarily in Art and Design classes. The same software the department uses is available for both Mac and PC computers, but instruction in the department is primarily on Apple Macintosh. Portable computers allow use in multiple locations: at home, in the Calder Art Center, in the library, and in other non-art courses.

Hardware Recommendations for Studio Art and Art Education Majors

Existing laptops: Used G4 iBook or Powerbook

New laptops: MacBook, MacBook Pro, or MacBook Air

A wireless network card (airport) should be included, along with purchase of the extended warranty. More memory and internal hard drive space are other options to consider.

Additional hardware recommendations: iPod, Flash Drive, or External Hard Drive, and a Digital Camera (minimum 5 megapixels). (iPods and Flash drives may be used for convenience and temporary storage. External hard drives come in two case sizes, portable and larger sizes, and use either USB or FireWire cables. Both cables systems may be used in the Art and Design Department computers.)

Software Recommendations for Studio Art and Art Education Majors

For students to be able to utilize their laptop most effectively, the department recommends purchase of the following minimum software package: Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Premium (Available at the GVSU Bookstore and from online vendors. Shopping for competitive pricing is recommended.). The package includes: Photoshop Extended, Illustrator, InDesign, Dreamweaver, Flash Professional, Acrobat 9 Professional.

Additional equipment and software may be needed for specific and advanced functions and classes.

ART HISTORY MAJORS

Hardware Recommendations for Art History Majors

There are no specific hardware recommendations for students majoring in art history. The GVSU campuses have public computing clusters with PC and Mac computers. Many students find it more convenient to purchase their own computers for coursework. Though not required, majors purchasing a computer should consider a laptop as they give considerable flexibility for working in classrooms, the library, and other research venues.

Software Recommendations for Art History Majors

Students are expected to have a standard word processing program such as Microsoft Word or Microsoft Office installed on their computer.

Educational discounts are available for hardware and software. This includes online vendors, such as Apple (http://store.apple.com/us_edu_383753) is the address of the GVSU Custom Apple Store), as well as retail stores, including the GVSU Bookstore (<http://www.ubs.gvsu.edu/>) that has student prices on software. Check the websites for prices.

See the GVSU Information Technology website for more information on Recommended Standards for personal computers. <http://www.gvsu.edu/it/student/index.cfm?id=2B177831-92EB-4644-C42D80AAD288CAF3>