GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ART
AND DESIGN

Student Computer Recommendations

STUDIO ART AND ART EDUCATION MAJORS
Given current professional visual practices, the Art and Design Department strongly recommends that 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
Any Mac laptop with an Intel processor that has at least 8 GB of ram. 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: Flash Drive, or External Hard Drive, and a Digital Camera (minimum 8 megapixels). Easily accessible manual camera controls for aperture, shutter speed, and white balance are beneficial. Flash drives and iPods 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 Adobe Creative Cloud desktop apps (learn more about Adobe Creative Cloud desktop apps please go to https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/catalog/desktop.html). All apps special offer for students available at https://creative.adobe.com/plans?plan=edu.

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

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

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.

See the GVSU Information Technology website for more information on Recommended Standards for personal computers (http://www.gvsu.edu/it/).

02/12/16