



Student Computer Recommendations

STUDIO ART and ART EDUCATION MAJORS

Given current professional visual practices, the Dept. of Visual and Media Arts 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 primarily used in the Art & Design majors. 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 Apple MacBook Pro laptop 2015 or newer with at least 8 GB of RAM. Purchasing Apple Care is recommended. Choosing a 15-inch model, more memory and larger hard drive space are other options to consider.

Additional hardware recommendations: Flash Drive, 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 may be used for convenience and temporary storage. When purchasing an external hard drive, be sure you talk with a store professional about the computer you will be using the drive with. Check with your instructor on the first week of class as to what you will need for cables in the Mac lab in case they differ from what comes with your hard drive purchase.

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>). Adobe offers special pricing for students available at <https://creative.adobe.com/plans?plan=edu>.

NOTE: 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.

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/>).