FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

2024-25 Interior Design Laptop Requirements

You will use computers extensively in the interior design program. A personal computer is not required for interior design majors, as the ID computer lab is available. A student can purchase a personal computer to use outside of the Art & Design building. We have developed the following recommendations to help you decide what type of computer to purchase while going through the interior design program.

General Note for 1st Year Students

Interior design students entering the first year of study will need access to a computer following the hardware specifications found in the link below. Because the interior design specific computer requirements are updated each year, **we STRONGLY encourage first-year students to delay the purchase of a high-level computer until the summer before their second year or later to have the most current technology when it is needed to use specialized software.**

Beginning in the 2nd semester of study, ID students begin instruction in computer-based software programs that demand higher amounts of memory and processor capacity. The students will learn these programs in the ID computer lab and are not required to have a personal high-level computer for the beginning course in their second semester.

See this link for hardware specifications for all FHSU students:
https://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/hardware-specifications

See this link for software application licenses available to FHSU students:
https://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/software/

General Note for 2nd Year Students

Interior design students entering the second year of study can utilize the lab computers or purchase a personal computer that meets or exceeds the required minimum specifications. Purchasing a computer the summer before your second year gives it a better chance of continuing to meet your needs through your fourth year in the program.

Beginning in the 2nd year of study, ID students' instruction intensifies in computer-based software programs that demand higher amounts of memory and processor capacity. Computer technology changes rapidly and it may be necessary to install upgrades to meet expectations in future years of study.

Computers purchased with the minimum requirements will require careful attention to regular systems maintenance, virus protection, and general file management. Failure to adhere to regular computer maintenance will likely result in system errors and delayed processing time (and, therefore, frustration). It is extremely important that students read and understand their responsibilities for the maintenance of their equipment and digital files.

Frequent Q/A

Can I purchase or use a Mac?

- At this time some of the required software used in the interior design program is only available for the Microsoft Windows operating system. It is possible to run this software under Windows on a Mac using Bootcamp for an additional cost. The licensing and configuration of this software is the full responsibility of the student.
    - Should a student decide to purchase an Apple laptop **(not recommended)**, Apple's Bootcamp for dual-booting the computer **must** be installed. The hard drive should be partitioned with at least 50% dedicated to the PC. Windows 10 Home (64-bit) should be installed as an operating system. VMware Fusion or Parallels are not recommended substitutes to Bootcamp and partitioning the hard drive.
- It is the student's responsibility to locate technological support if they have software/hardware issues on any platform.

Do I need a second screen/monitor?

- Although not required, students can purchase a second screen, either freestanding, portable, or attachable, to have a more streamlined, faster, and easier online experience. A second screen can help students model and render simultaneously.

Can I have an external hard drive?

- With their personal computer, students are **highly encouraged** to purchase an external hard drive of at least 1TB of memory to back up their work and always have it available if files need to be transferred between computers.
- If the student does not use a personal computer and instead uses the computer lab in the Art & Design building, they are **required** to purchase a 1TB external hard drive.
- Options for the external hard drive:
    - SSD Option 1   -   SSD Option 2   -   SSD Card Carrying Case

Can I use an IPAD, Tablet, or Chrome Book?

- An IPAD or Tablet is a helpful ADDITION to your computer setup, it can be used as a second screen, to draw, take pictures, or play videos; but due to the interactive nature of our studios and classes, and to achieve a proper level of communication and feedback we require computers.
- Chromebooks are NOT a good choice for use in the interior design program.

Can I use a cellular Wi-Fi hotspot to connect to my computer?

- A Wi-Fi hotspot is an alternative solution when experiencing Wi-Fi problems, however, it is not a dependable source of connection and limits accessibility depending on your cellphone plan. Ideally, students should have access to an Ethernet, or direct, connection to their internet service for the best performance.

Should I have a webcam and a microphone?

- Yes, you should have the capability for both audio (built-in microphone or headset with microphone) and video (built-in or portable Webcam).

If I have technical issues, who should I contact?

- You should use TigerTech if off-campus in multiple ways such as live online chat, submit a support ticket, and phone call (785-628-3478).
- If on-campus, please visit TigerTech in Tomanek Hall 127.

System Requirements

	System Requirements
Processor	Intel i7 minimum, 12th generation of higher recommended or 4000 or higher AMD equivalent
Memory	16 GB memory minimum (32 GB if possible)
Internal Storage	1 or more TB recommended
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 10 or higher is required
Video/Graphics	NVIDIA 2000 series with 4GB dedicated memory or higher *or* AMD Radeon RX 500 Series with 4GB dedicated memory or higher
Video Memory	4 GB or higher
Wireless	The latest version and fastest speed of a Wired and Wireless LAN (802.011) is required
Monitor	15" PREFERRED, Ultra-High-Definition Monitor at least 1680 x 1050
Webcam	Built-in webcam
Microphone	Built-in or headphones
Warranty	A 3-year manufacturer warranty minimum (recommended)

The graphics card should be independent video, not "shared" video, and must be NVIDIA or AMD, Intel is not compatible with all software.

A wireless mouse is highly recommended for use with the student's computer.

Required Applications

Products	Cost	Remark(s)
Microsoft Office 365	Free through FHSU	FHSU Microsoft Office 365
Adobe Creative Cloud	$19.99/mo the first year and $34.99/mo afterward.	This software should be purchased when directed by course instructors to avoid paying for extra months of service.
Autodesk: Revit	Free Download	Should not download the software until directed to do so by instructor(s).
Autodesk: AutoCAD	Free Download	Should not download the software until directed to do so by instructor(s).
Enscape	$12.42/mo or $149 yearly	Should not download the software until directed to do so by instructor(s).
SketchUp	$55 yearly	Should not download the software until directed to do so by instructor(s).

Products used in the Interior Design Program

- You are strongly advised to refer to the system requirements of the following products used in our interior design programs:
    - Microsoft Office 365
    - Adobe Creative Cloud
    - Revit
    - AutoCAD
    - Enscape
    - SketchUp