

LAPTOP AND SOFTWARE RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1.19

If you are thinking of purchasing a laptop for your coursework here at DCAD, please note the following:

Students who are majoring in Animation, Graphic Design, Illustration and Photography should expect to use the laptop for studio homework and in-class assignments. Fine Arts majors are highly encouraged to invest in a laptop for studio homework and in-class assignments.

Laptop devices must meet the minimum system requirements as outlined by Adobe® in order to successfully run the student edition of Adobe Creative Cloud Suite. To review the system requirements for Macintosh and Microsoft devices visit: <https://helpx.adobe.com/creative-cloud/system-requirements.html>

General Adobe CC Requirements - Windows

Per system requirements outlined by [Adobe®](#)

	Minimum requirement
Processor	Intel® or AMD processor with 64-bit support; 2 GHz or faster processor
Operating system	Microsoft Windows 7 with Service Pack 1 (64-bit)*, Windows 10** (Version 1709 or later)
RAM (Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography majors)	2 GB or more of RAM (8 GB recommended)
RAM (Animation majors)	16 GB minimum (32 GB recommended)
Hard disk space (Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography majors)	3.1 GB or more of available hard-disk space for 64-bit installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system)
Hard disk space (Animation majors)	5GB of available hard-disk space; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on removable flash storage devices) Additional disk space for disk cache (10GB recommended)
Monitor resolution space (Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography majors)	1024 x 768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit color and 512 MB or more of dedicated VRAM; 2 GB is recommended

Monitor resolution space (Animation majors)	1280x1080 or greater display resolution
Graphics processor acceleration requirements	OpenGL 2.0-capable system

General Adobe CC Requirements - MacOS

Per system requirements outlined by [Adobe®](#)

	Minimum requirement
Processor	Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support
Operating system	macOS version 10.12 (Sierra), macOS version 10.13 (High Sierra), or macOS version 10.14 (Mojave)
RAM (Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography majors)	2 GB or more of RAM (8 GB recommended)
RAM (Animation majors)	16 GB minimum (32 GB recommended)
Hard disk space (Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography majors)	4 GB or more of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system)
Hard disk space (Animation majors)	6GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on removable flash storage devices) Additional disk space for disk cache (10GB recommended)
(Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography majors)	1024 x 768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit color and 512 MB or more of dedicated VRAM; 2 GB is recommended
Monitor resolution space (Animation majors)	1440x900 or greater display resolution
Graphics processor acceleration requirements	OpenGL 2.0-capable system

MacOS Device Recommendation

Hardware: Minimum 13"/Maximum 15" MacBook Pro; 512 GB or as large as possible; Base Processor and RAM.
(Apple Care service and warranty highly recommended)

Estimated Cost : \$1799.00

Software: Adobe Creative Cloud (12-mo student rate)

\$239.88/year for first 12 months

\$359.88/year after 12 months

Estimated Cost (for 2 years): \$599.76

Total estimated cost: \$2,398.76

Windows Device Recommendation

Hardware: DELL XPS 15 7590; 15.6-inch screen, 9th Gen Intel® Core™ processor, 32G memory, 1TB hard disk space.

Estimated Cost: \$1,549.99

Software: Adobe Creative Cloud (12-mo student rate)

\$239.88/year for first 12 months

\$359.88/year after 12 months

Estimated Cost (for 2 years): \$599.76

Total estimated cost: \$2,149.75

It is **highly recommended** that all DCAD students have an external back-up drive. 1 TB external backup USB or Thunderbolt hard drive: \$60.00

Questions about specific software needs should be directed to the Area Coordinator of that major:

Animation: Tad Sare tsare@dcad.edu
Fine Art: Rachel Bomze rbomze@dcad.edu
Graphic Design: John Breakey jbreakey@dcad.edu
Illustration: Katy Ro kro@dcad.edu
Photography: Ron Brignac rbrignac@dcad.edu