

TO: Stuart Weitzman School of Design Architecture Students
DATE: May 18, 2021
SUBJECT: Laptop Purchase Options for Architecture Students

The Information Technology Team welcomes you to the Stuart Weitzman School of Design!

General Computing Information:

The Architecture Department at Stuart Weitzman School of Design requires incoming graduate students to purchase or bring a laptop during your time as a student at Weitzman. It is critical that you bring in a laptop that can handle the demands of your program. As an architecture student, memory, graphic card, and processor performance are key. We have configured a few options at varying price points with several vendors which will be available via the Campus Express portal on June 1st, 2021. Each of these systems are priced at an educational discount.

We do not recommend or configure Macs in our Back to School sale. Many of the software applications you will use are written for a Windows operating system. If choosing a Mac, you will need to consider additional costs for a virtual machine and a Windows OS license. Depending on your hardware specifications, this could have a performance impact on your computer.

Ordering Information: Should you choose to order your laptop through the University's preferred vendors, you can log into [Campus Express](#) (beginning June 1st) to order your laptop. It is important that you secure your laptop and other peripherals with lock down kits. If you plan to purchase a system elsewhere, or want to evaluate a system you already own, please match the specifications of your preferred system to the ones recommended by Weitzman ITS. We encourage students to place their technology orders as quickly as possible. Current circumstances have disrupted some supply chains which can cause longer shipping and delivery times.

Software: As a student in a Design based program, you are required to have Rhino and a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud. The computer labs at Weitzman are heavily scheduled for teaching and are not to be depended upon to do your work. Often faculty will expect you to bring your laptop to class and owning this software will allow you to fully participate in class. You can subscribe to the educationally discounted Adobe CC subscription at <https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html>. Rhino educational licenses can be purchased at educational pricing via the following resellers: [Creation Engine](#), [Novedge LLC](#), or [Studica, Inc.](#)

Free: You can download free copies of AutoDesk applications at [AutoDesk's student webpage](#). A free download of Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus is available to students at [Campus Express](#). Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote and more.

Financing: If you are a US citizen or permanent resident, have filed a FAFSA form, and are eligible for Federal loans, you can ask for a budget increase from the University's Office of Student Financial Services to assist you in the purchase of your computer. Download their [Application for Educational Budget Adjustment form](#) and return the completed form to them along with a receipt from the computer you've purchased or an estimate of the computer you plan to purchase. For more information, contact the Weitzman School of Design Office of Financial Aid at fin-aid@design.upenn.edu.

More Information:

It is important that you visit our [Computer Recommendations page](#) **BEFORE ORDERING** for more detailed information on laptop configurations, software applications, and shipping information.

If you have specific questions about computing requirements at Weitzman Design, please send us an e-mail at ithelp@design.upenn.edu.

We understand these are important decisions, and we are here to help guide you through the process.

Weitzman IT Team