

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

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

**General Computing Information:**

While Fine Arts students are not absolutely required to have a personal computer, it is strongly recommended that you own one for your expected needs for the two years of your MFA study. A personal computer would not only support your academic and creative work, especially for those whose art is digitally or computationally focused, but it would be of service to you for several years beyond your graduation. Having a personal computer is an investment that would greatly enhance your studies and your post-graduate professional path.

**Ordering Information:**

Should you choose to order a computer through the University's preferred vendors, you can log into [Campus Express](#) (Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>) to order your device. It is important that you secure your computer 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 contact [ithelp@design.upenn.edu](mailto:ithelp@design.upenn.edu) and someone from the IT staff will be able to consult with you. We encourage students to place their technology order as quickly as possible. Current circumstances have disrupted some supply chains which can cause longer shipping and delivery times.

**Software:**

While many software programs are available in computer labs for your use, you are highly encouraged to obtain a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud. You can subscribe to the educationally discounted Adobe Creative Cloud subscription at <https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html>.

**Free:**

Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus is available for free to students. Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote and more. For details on how to download please see: <https://www.isc.upenn.edu/how-to/penno365-office-365-proplus#Getting-started>

**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](mailto:fin-aid@design.upenn.edu).

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

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

*Weitzman IT Team*