



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Fay Jones School
of Architecture + Design
Office of the Dean

Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design 2021-2022 Laptop Computer Specifications

Dear Fay Jones School entering students,

The Fay Jones School incorporates digital tools, techniques and methods of design in the education of students beginning in the first year, across all departments and disciplines. These important approaches are integrated with a parallel emphasis on hand-drawing and analog tools, so as to provide a holistic education, one that is valued within the School and beyond, into professional practice. Due to this integrated approach, and due to the mobility of our teaching and learning methods, the School asks all students to arrive to their design studies with a laptop computer of suitable capacity, memory and capability for the demands of both design studio and classroom use. This machine will be a primary tool and resource for your studies.

Students will need a computer capable of running Autodesk Revit, Rhino 3D, Adobe Design Suite, and other graphic intensive applications for 4 to 5 years. Windows is required to run Autodesk Revit and other BIM/CAD/CAM applications. *For these reasons, purchasing an Apple computer is HIGHLY DISCOURAGED for all students attending Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design.*

Considering the balance between cost and performance, the school recommends two tiers of laptop specifications:

High Performance offers more computing power at a higher cost;

Reliable Performance still offers good reliable performance with graphic intensive programs at a more affordable cost.

Both tiers will provide effective computing power for applications taught and used by the school.

Note: Purchasing a computer at a lower specification than the recommended Reliable Performance tier may put a student at a disadvantage when using graphic intensive software.

The UA Bookstore has been consulted in these specifications and can assist you with either of these options.

Recommended Brands

Dell, Alienware (owned by Dell), MSI, Lenovo and Microsoft.

High Performance - Higher Cost

For the highest performance and longest use value.

(Based on high to medium level recommended specs for the highest demanding software.)

Specifications	
Processor	Intel i7 Series or AMD Ryzen 5 2600 - Highest affordable CPU speed rating recommended.
Memory	32 GB RAM
Graphics Card (GPU)	Nvidia GeForce RTX 2070, AMD Radeon RX 5700XT or Better
Graphics Card Memory	8 GB or more
Storage	512GB SSD (Solid State Drive)
Operating System	Windows 10 Pro 64-Bit
Wi-Fi	
Display	NonTouch - 1920 x 1200 or higher

Reliable Performance - Lower Cost

For good reliable performance at a more affordable cost.

(Based on medium to minimum level recommended specs for the highest demanding software.)

Specifications	
Processor	Intel i7 Series or AMD Ryzen 5 2600 - Highest affordable CPU speed rating recommended.
Memory	16 GB RAM
Graphics Card (GPU)	Nvidia GeForce RTX 2070, AMD Radeon RX 5700XT or Better
Graphics Card Memory	4 GB or more
Storage	512GB SSD (Solid State Drive)
Operating System	Windows 10 Pro 64-Bit
Wi-Fi	
Display	NonTouch - 1920 x 1200 or higher