Bachelor Of Interior Design (BID)
Laptop Computer Specifications As Of June 2025

Technology demands are not as intensive for first year students. Because of this, students enrolled in the first year of the BID program may decide to use Mount Royal University computers, work with their existing technology, or purchase a new laptop guided by the specifications below.

Typical software used in the BID program are: AutoCAD, Revit, SketchUp, D5 Render, 3ds Max, and Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign). Students wanting to use software outside of the program will be confident in knowing the BID specifications are substantial enough to do so.

While technology is rapidly changing, these specifications may change throughout the program. The development cycle for hardware allows for outdated specifications to continue to work without the need for upgrade for several years. This cycle is typically 4 – 6 years, or longer if you don't require hardware upgrades with software packages.

> ⛔ **All courses in the Interior Design Department are taught and supported on a PC platform only! _Apple products will not be supported_ as they will not meet the requirements of the program specific software even when using Bootcamp or Parallels®**

The recommendations curated here are to best ensure longevity and performance of the computer for the foreseeable future from the date of this document.

Note: Educational versions of software that are free, or are a minimal cost to students include but are not limited to: Microsoft Office, AutoCAD, Revit, 3ds Max, D5 Render and SketchUp. Additional required software for purchase/lease will be discussed with students prior to curricular engagement if required.

Computer Requirements — Laptop

Specification	Requirement
Operating System	Windows 10 or 11 (Home or Pro). Pro will have better networking capabilities, but is not necessary unless you administer a personal private network.
CPU	Minimum 3.5GHz or higher with Multiple Cores
RAM	Minimum 32Gb — 16Gb is common but will limit computer performance with current software demands. Strongly recommend to upgrade to 32Gb at purchase
GPU	Dedicated NVIDIA RTX 30 series or higher. Additional designations such as Super and Ti indicate performance enhancement. On board VRAM should be 12Gb or higher. 8Gb will cause bottlenecks with more advanced graphics software. AMD Graphics Cards are also high quality, but not recommended for professional use. They are more oriented to gaming, not high end graphics and AI.
NPU	While Neural Processing Units have been used in mobile devices for years, they have recently appeared in PC's. This will improve perfomance, but is not widely adopted and as such IS NOT a mandatory recommendation as very few laptops will have them.
Hard Drive	Minimum 512GB Solid State Drive (SSD) M.2 — HIGHLY RECOMMEND 1TB or higher SSD M.2 NVMe
Mouse	Minimum 3 Button with Scroll Wheel (wired or wireless)
Keyboard	Having a keyboard with a Number Pad would be beneficial but not required
Anti-Virus	Third party anti-virus is not recommended. Windows Defender is part of the Windows 10/11 operating system and is secure. Other anti-virus can cause issues with software.
Cloud Storage	While backing up files on redundant systems is important, we recommend physically backing up important files manually on Google as cloud storage has proven to be unreliable in the past.

Brands/Stores

There are numerous brands and stores, both physically and on-line, that supply similar products. While we do not endorse one brand or store over another, we do invite you to shop around to find the best deal. It is essential that you strictly meet the minimum in the above requirements to ensure success.

Please reach out to the department if you have any questions or concerns, and we can help to advise you on your purchase.

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