

Bachelor Of Interior Design (BID)

Laptop Computer Specifications As Of June 2026

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 The development cycle for hardware allows for outdated specifications to continue to work without the need for upgrade for several years.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 Graphics Cards. Additional designations such as Super and Ti indicate performance enhancement. On board VRAM should be 12Gb or higher. AMD Graphics Cards are also high quality, but not recommended for professional use in interior design. Current NVIDIA RTX cards are in the 50 series. 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, and 5090. 5050 and 5060 cards do not have enough VRAM. Look for 5070 or higher. Ask to see the video card specs to ensure the VRAM is 12Gb or higher.
NPU	While Neural Processing Units have been used in mobile devices for years, they have recently appeared in PC's. This will improve performance, but is not widely adopted and as such IS NOT a mandatory recommendation.
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 is recommended, 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.
Backup	While backing up files on redundant systems is important, we recommend physically backing up important files manually on Google. Do not work from a cloud service like Windows OneDrive - ALWAYS WORK LOCALLY ON YOUR COMPUTER.

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.