

# NDSU Interior Design Program 2023-2024 Minimum Laptop Specifications



For the Fall 2023 semester, all first-year students and transfer students in interior design are **required** to have a laptop that meets the specifications outlined below and have the required design software installed prior to the first day of class in the fall semester. All computers purchased for use in the interior design program **MUST** have a Windows operating system.

The NDSU Interior Design program has provided options for laptops that meet this specification on our website. Laptops may also be purchased from Dell, HP, MSI or other vendors if the hardware meets the minimum specifications and you are comfortable with the warranty and pricing they offer. You will be using this laptop for the next four years with very intense design software and complex files, so plan accordingly.

If you have any questions about the laptop specifications or purchasing, please contact:

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## Purchasing your Laptop

Most big-box stores **do NOT** sell a system that meets these requirements 'on the shelf' so make sure you **ORDER DIRECTLY** from the manufacturer or NDSU Bookstore so they can build to suit. Let them know you are a student for any discounts that may be available.

## Minimum Laptop Specifications

The following are the system requirements based on Autodesk Revit 2024, Autodesk AutoCAD 2024, SketchUp Studio, and Enscape as the primary design software that are integrated into the design curriculum.

### Operating System

- Microsoft® Windows®
  - **No Macs for the Interior Design program** will be allowed as some software does not have the same interface as a PC and other software is not available for OS X. Industry standard is a PC and that is what we teach. Windows emulation is not supported.

### Processor

- Intel Core i7 Processor 13<sup>th</sup> generation<sup>1</sup>
  - Highest affordable CPU speed rating recommended.

### Memory and Hard Drive

- 32 GB RAM <sup>2</sup>
- 1 TB Solid State Drive (SSD)

### Video Display

- 15" or 17" monitor size<sup>3</sup>
- 1920 x 1200 with true color, maximum Ultra-High (4k) definition monitor

### Video Card (Dedicated only)<sup>4</sup>

- **Dedicated** video card (NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4060 8GB or better)
  - **Graphics card must be dedicated, NOT integrated, to run industry standard modeling programs. You WILL NOT be able to install/open/run certain required programs if you do not have the appropriate required graphics card.**
  - Intel-based graphics cards WILL NOT WORK.
  - Compare graphics cards [here](#)

### Webcam

- Either integrated with laptop or purchase an external webcam to support Hy Flex instruction as needed.

### Warranty

- We strongly recommend purchasing a warranty that will last the duration of your academic career and features 'in home' support. Consider accidental coverage as well.

### Accessories

- Ergonomic three-button USB Optical Scroll Wheel Mouse. Please look for a "silent" mouse to reduce clicking.
  - Consider the [Logitech M330](#)
  - Consider the [Logitech MX Master 2s](#)
  - Consider the [Logitech G620 Lag Free Wireless Mouse](#)
- USB Flash Drive (qty. 2)
  - No 'micro' USB's. Make sure you can clearly label with your name.
- Earphones / ear buds with microphone
- Computer case / bag

## Software Installed Prior to the First Day of Classes

**Students are responsible** for ensuring the below software is installed and properly operating prior to the first day of class. Any issues with installation should be directed to NDSU IT Help Desk.

### NDSU Wireless Access

- Instructions are found [here](#)

## Web Browser & Cloud File Storage

- Google Chrome
- NDSU [One Drive](#)
- NDSU [Google Drive](#)

## Productivity Software

- [Microsoft Office](#) Home and Student (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher) Free

# Software Installed as Instructed at Later Date

Students are responsible for installing the below software is installed when directed by course instructors. **Please do not download until you are enrolled in the required course.** Any issues with installation should be directed to NDSU IT Help Desk.

## Autodesk AutoCAD Software

- AutoCAD (latest version) [FREE student version](#)

## Autodesk Revit Software

- Revit (latest version) [FREE student version](#)

## SketchUp Studio Software

- Annual [\\$55 / yr. student license](#) of latest version of software

## Enscape Software

- Enscape (latest version) [\\$150 / yr. student version](#)

## CET Designer Software

- CET Designer (latest version) FREE. Faculty member will provide resources when needed.

If you are having difficulty downloading software or need assistance setting up your laptop go to the **ITS Help Desk**, [Quentin Burdick Building - Room 150](#)

**NDSU Interior Design program is not responsible for any issues that arise for students who fail to purchase a laptop using these specifications.**

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Core i7/i9 processors from Intel are the fastest with the least number of flaws.

<sup>2</sup> 32GB of RAM is required so you can have more than one program running at once with fast performance.

<sup>3</sup> 17" laptops offer more display and battery life at the cost of adding a few additional pounds of weight.

<sup>4</sup> For the dedicated graphics card, we require a Nvidia card because most design software is optimized for Nvidia cards. We require a higher spec graphic card due to the demanding design rendering software integrated into the curriculum.

Rendering is challenging on your laptop, especially when trying to work on other coursework.