

System Recommendations Fall 2020

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
	GENERAL Tier 1 is the minimum required for these majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Communication Design » Critical + Cultural Practice » Illustration » Interaction Design » Photography » Visual Arts 	INTERMEDIATE Tier 2 is the minimum required for these majors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 2D + Experimental Animation » 3D Computer Animation » Industrial Design » Film + Screen Arts » New Media + Sound Arts 	ADVANCED <i>No majors will require Tier 3 systems, but they are listed to help direct students who seek a higher performance device.</i>
2D Graphics + Design Digital Photography + Print	✓ Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop	✓ Any	✓ Any
Audio + Video Editing	✓ iMovie	✓ Nuke, AfterEffects, Premiere, Pro Tools, Logic, Resolve & Fusion, Final Cut Pro	✓ Any
2D Animation + Compositing	✓ DragonFrame, TV Paint, Animate	✓ Harmony	✓ Any
3D Modeling + Animation	✗	✓ Maya, Zbrush, Mari, Substance Painter + Designer	✓ Any including MtoA, Redshift rendering
3D Lighting + Rendering	✗	✓ Maya (previews, limited rendering)	✓ Any
Interactivity	✓ Processing, Touch Designer	✓ Unity 3D	✓ Any including Oculus Rift, Vive Pro
Design for Digital Fabrication	✓ Tinkerine Suite	✓ Rhino, Modo	✓ Any including Solidworks, Modo rendering
VFX + Simulation	✗	✓ Maya (longer processing times)	✓ Any including Solidworks simulations

Example Products

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Apple (Laptop)	» Macbook Pro	» Macbook Pro	» Macbook Pro
Apple (Desktop)	» iMac » Mac Mini	» iMac Pro » iMac Pro + eGPU	» iMac Pro » Mac Pro
Windows (Laptop)	» Dell XPS	» Dell G-Series » New XPS 15 » Razer Blade	» Razer Blade » Dell Precision Mobile » Lenovo Thinkstation » HP ZBook
Windows (Desktop)	» Dell Inspiron (All-in-One) » Dell Inspiron (Desktop)	» Dell XPS Tower » Dell G-Series Tower » Lenovo P-Series Tiny » HP Z-Series	» Dell Alienware » Dell XPS Tower Special Edition » Lenovo P-Series » HP Z6 G4

System Components

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Memory (RAM)	8–16 GB	16–32 GB	32 + GB
Processor Type (CPU)	Intel i5 or i7	Intel i5 or i7	Intel i7 or i9, Intel Xeon, AMD Ryzen
Processor Core Count	4-core	4-core+	8-core +
Processor Clock Speed (Base Frequency)	1.8 Ghz	3 Ghz	3.5 Ghz+
Graphics (GPU)	Intel HD, UHD, Iris or Iris Plus Integrated Graphics, AMD Embedded Graphics	Nvidia Quadro, Geforce GTX or RTX*, AMD Radeon <i>*Nvidia Graphics (GPU) options are only available for Windows</i>	Nvidia Quadro or Geforce RTX, Quadro K or P Series*, AMD Radeon <i>*Nvidia Graphics (GPU) options are only available for Windows</i>
Graphics Memory (VRAM)	n/a	4GB + VRAM	8GB + VRAM
Graphics Cuda Computer Score	n/a	3.0	6.0
System Storage (SSD)	256 GB	512 GB	1 TB
Project Storage	Cloud, Portable USB	Cloud, Portable USB	Internal HDD, Cloud, Portable USB
Display	built-in	1920 × 1080 or higher	Dual Monitor, 1920 × 1080 or higher
Peripherals (see program major for requirements)	pen tablet, webcam + mic	pen tablet or pen display, webcam + mic	pen tablet or pen display, webcam + mic
Internet	wifi or LAN connectivity	wifi or LAN connectivity	wifi or LAN connectivity