

Technology Specifications for URI Landscape Architecture 2026

Much of the coursework in this program requires students to have a computer with specific computing capabilities. It is required that students have a laptop that meets the specifications below in order to complete the course work for this program. While it can be great to have a tablet as an additional tool, these smaller machines will not have the capacity to do many of the assignments in various classes. If you already have a laptop, but it does not meet the specifications we recommend you purchase a new machine that meets these criteria by the beginning of your sophomore year. Students should expect to spend a minimum \$1000 on a new computer.

Computer Hardware

- **Processor:** Newest Generation Available, 3.1 GHz or greater
- **Memory:** 8GB RAM Minimum; 16 GB Recommended
- **Storage:** 500GB HDD Minimum; 1TB HDD Recommended
- **Graphics Cards:** 4GB Minimum; 8 GB Recommended
- **Wireless Network Card**
- **Screen Size:** Ideally 15" or larger is better, but you can get away with a 14" though you may want to supplement with an extra monitor display.

Windows or MAC?

All of the programs we teach are compatible with both Mac and Windows computers; however, many landscape offices do tend to use Windows based machines as their primary computers. We do not require students to purchase one machine or the other as there are different preferences and past experiences that may play into the decision. As long as the machine you purchase meets the above requirements you will be all set.

MAC: If purchasing a Apple computer, you will need to buy a MacBook Pro as the Air will not be capable of doing the larger more heavy-duty processing tasks some programs require.

Windows: There are many more options for Windows computers, but many past students have gone with HP, Dell, Alienware or ASUS computers.

Computer Warranty and Insurance

We highly recommend spending the extra money to get extended warranties/protection to ensure the device can be serviced and/or replaced if necessary. We suggest protecting the machine for the extent of your time in the program. If buying through Best Buy there is Geek Squad protection that covers a wide array of incidents.

Computer Accessories

- Required: Mouse
- Required: USB Flash Drive (16mb)
- Optional: Keyboard
- Optional: USB Adapter (for Macs without a USB-C -> USB A adapter)
- Optional: Desktop Monitor >22"
- Optional: Drawing Tablet or iPad
- Optional: External Hard Drives up to 1TB for backing up work

Software

Before the start of the 4th semester (sophomore spring) you will need to purchase or subscribe to the following programs and have the latest versions downloaded to your computer:

Required

- Adobe Creative Cloud (\$20/month for students)
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - Adobe Photoshop
 - Adobe Illustrator
 - Adobe InDesign
 - Adobe Fresco
- AutoCAD (Student Version is Free)
- Rhino 3D (Department has access to 30 transferable licenses, but if you would like to purchase the license you can do so for \$199)
- QGIS (Free for All)
- Google Earth Pro

Optional

- Lumion
- Sketchup
- Procreate
- Land Kit