

Student Personal Laptops

Introduction

The College of Architecture requires all students to have a personal laptop. This laptop is required to perform classroom activities based on the courses taken. As of the Fall 2005 semester, all incoming students in the College of Architecture are required to possess a laptop computer.

Personal Laptop Support

ITS will provide assistance in connecting to college of architecture resources, including network connectivity, access to networked file storage, and printing resources. ITS staff and student workers are not responsible for any loss of data or functionality while assisting the students in connecting to university/college resources.

The Texas A&M IT Help Desk can provide hardware/software support. For more information please refer to their webpages for [Help Desk Central](#) and [Getting Help](#).

Software Availability

Information about architecture-related software packages is available here: arch.tamu.edu/software.

Laptop Hardware Recommendations

As of the Fall 2005 semester, all incoming students in the College of Architecture are required to possess a laptop computer. Please verify with your department and/or professor the specific software needs for individual courses. Ensuring you have the proper hardware and software is vital to your success at Texas A&M University.

Students should purchase the best possible laptop that they can afford, based on three basic criteria:

- Processing power (CPU and GPU)
- Memory (RAM)
- Storage (hard disk or flash storage)

Most vendors offer specials that include increased RAM, graphics, larger hard drives, etc., at no additional cost, or for a nominal increase. These features, while not essential, enhance the capabilities of the laptop and can extend the usable life of the hardware. One can usually upgrade many components independently. Possible enhancements include:

- faster processor
- more memory
- larger hard disk drive
- better video card

Mac Computers

Apple computers and mobile equipment should be evaluated using the same criteria as any other hardware: processor, memory and storage. For help with purchasing Apple equipment, visit the [Apple Student Portal](#).

Vendor Hardware Discounts

Various computer hardware vendors offer academic discounts to students of institutions of higher education:

✓ [Click here to expand...](#)

- [Apple Student Portal](#)
- [Dell Member Purchase Program](#)
- [HP Academy](#)
- [Lenovo Academic Purchase Program](#)
- [Consumer Reports Buying Guide](#)