



Interior Architecture  
School of Design & Communication  
**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**

## Interior Architecture Computer Needs

**You will need a laptop, mouse, and external hard drive.**

You will not need to rush and purchase a laptop before school your first semesters as an Interior Architecture student. You will probably want one by your second semester when you take IA 204.

The best way to begin your search visit the Autodesk website and view the system requirements for Revit Architecture 2023: <https://knowledge.autodesk.com/support/revit/learn-explore/caas/sfdarticles/sfdarticles/System-requirements-for-Autodesk-Revit-2023-products.html>

Try to meet the "Performance" or "Value" minimum requirements as your best bet for long-term life of the laptop over your coming years in the IA program and beyond.

Next, you can cross-reference these requirements with the system requirements for SketchUp Studio (Pro): <https://help.sketchup.com/en/sketchup/system-requirements>. Again, meet the best performance requirements you can do within your budget.

We strongly recommend that students purchase **Windows-based machines** over Mac as the Revit and AutoCAD Architecture drafting software is **ONLY** able to operate in a Windows operating system. (Some students prefer to use Macs but that gets into more complications because you still need to install the Windows operating system on the Mac to run that software. It's possible, but a headache, and probably causes more hassle than it's worth. It's also the more expensive route to go.)

We don't make specific recommendations for a particular brand of laptop because there are so many options and variables out there. We suggest going to a website for a manufacturer, such as HP, Dell, etc. and following links to find student discounts or laptops for educational purposes (usually where student discounts can be applied) and then customizing a laptop build to meet the system requirements you will need. This will give you a baseline for knowing how much you are likely to spend. Then, you could try to find the laptop somewhere else like Best Buy (but usually you aren't going to find exactly what you need by making a purchase off the shelf like that.) It is best to order online and specify what you want with a custom build IMO.

ALSO...very important to also get a comfortable mouse! You will need this for drafting. **Don't skip this.**

We also recommend students purchase an external hard drive so they can back-up work and large files you will accumulate as a result of using the software that IA students use.