



Departmental Policy – 2011

Computer Requirements

2011

Key Information:

Real-time information on computer station access around campus:
<http://www.oit.umass.edu/index.html>

On-campus tech support:
<http://www.oit.umass.edu/index.html>

Hardware support:
<http://www.oit.umass.edu/hardware/min-rec/index.html>

All incoming LARP Students are required to have their own **Windows Compatible** laptop computer.

Students are expected to use their own laptop computer for their course and studio work in class. The entire Hills North building has wireless access, and we also have two computer access rooms where you can plug into an Ethernet connection, and large screen monitors as needed. If you need access to another computer for any reason, the University has computer labs across campus. OIT provides real-time information on computer station access around campus:
<http://classrooms-av.oit.umass.edu/view.php>

While you may decide to use a netbook or an iPad as a second computing instrument, please be aware that they do not have sufficient computing power for the demands of your coursework and software.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Computer resources **on Campus** for all UMass Students: Office of Information Technology (OIT)
<http://www.oit.umass.edu/index.html>
Most services are free or at a substantial discount. They are certified hardware professionals and have a help desk for software. You may be asked for your name, Net ID and SPIRE #. No one from the University, OIT or the Department will ever ask for your password. Computer assistance is also available through the learning commons at the library.
<http://www.umass.edu/learningcommons/>

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND REGIONAL PLANNING
University of Massachusetts Amherst

PURCHASING A COMPUTER

Many people are inquiring about what type, brand or platform the department recommends. As you will be spending a large amount of time on your computer you should design it to meet your **individual** needs and preferences. Because having a computer is a departmental requirement, it can be incorporated into your financial aid package. Here are some general guidelines:

HARDWARE <http://www.oit.umass.edu/hardware/min-rec/index.html>

Much of the LARP computer course work involves mapping and graphics programs. These programs require a high level of processing speed and file sizes are large. Therefore, when you are buying a computer, invest in the fastest processor, the most RAM and largest Hard Drive you can afford. No one will complain that his or her computer is **too fast**. It is a good professional and academic investment not to be held up by computer speed or lack thereof.

We recommend the following standards:

- The fastest processor you are able to afford with a 2.33 MHz minimum
- Minimum 8 GB RAM
- 500 GB hard drive or larger is recommended: you can make a tradeoff in terms of hard disk space on the computer by purchasing a portable external hard drive to add more hard disk space. The tradeoff is that it will be slower to run programs with files off the external disk drive.
- Wireless card
- Optical or wireless mouse.
- **Lock mechanism to lock your laptop to your desk. (During the 2009-2010 school year *two laptops were stolen from unlocked desks*).**
- Two external hard drives, one for back up and one for sharing. It is recommended that you have one external hard drive that you back up to daily, that stays in one safe location, such as you apartment or dorm room. A second portable hard drive is useful to maintain large amounts of data, to backup while you are working, and to share files with other students in your class.

BSLA, MLA and MRP students will require very high levels of computing capacity, because of their studio intensive curriculum and graphics needs. BSED students may be able to start more modestly in terms of RAM and hard drive space and add memory capacity during their program.

PC OR MAC

AutoCAD and GIS only run on the **WINDOWS** platform. Therefore, while students may use Mac computers, they must be properly configured with a partition/virtual computer on the hard drive to accommodate a Windows platform on the machine. Most students purchase Parallels (or similar software) to ease interactions with the dual platform. If configured successfully, there are no benefits or hindrances with selecting one computer platform over another.

SOFTWARE - PROGRAMS

A table of required software for each program is attached below. You are required to purchase the software listed, in the version listed, as these will be the programs and versions that will be used in your classes. However, individual courses may have additional software associated with them, and you will be informed of this in your syllabus.

Basic Computer Software list							
Major	Microsoft Office - Including Word and Powerpoint	Adobe Creative Suite 5	Arc GIS	AutoCAD 2011	Google Earth	Google Sketch Up 8 Pro	MaxQDA
Landscape Architecture							
<i>Undergraduate</i>							
Freshmen	Yes	Photoshop			Yes		
Sophomore	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
Junior	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Senior	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<i>MLA</i>							
1st Year	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
2nd Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
3rd Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Environmental Design							
Freshmen	Yes						
Sophomore	Yes						
Junior	Yes		Yes*		Yes*		
Senior	Yes		Yes*		Yes*		
MRP Planning							
1st Year	Yes	Yes*	Yes		Yes		Social /Community concentration only
2nd Year	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		

- *Depending on concentration; please discuss with your program director.

SHOP AROUND.

Students are entitled to discounts on hardware and software. Be aware that “special student pricing” does not always give the best value for the money or an educational discount. **Talk to other LARP students and share your experiences.**

- The UStore located in the Campus Center has both hardware and software at student discounts.
 - <http://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10571-1>
- The following links can be used for student pricing of software or download free versions:
 - Microsoft Office- UStore or Govconnection
<https://www.govconnection.com/IPA/Account/Profiles/CreateAccount.htm?sid=6823aa90-e402-4eb8-9119-476035f7cfe7>
 - Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop or the complete Creative Suite 5 package

- (*educational discount <http://www.cdwg.com/adobestudent>)
- Design Standard minimum, Design Premium - option for student interested in creating websites.
- ArcGIS ESRI Software
 - (a student license may be obtained by contacting your faculty member)
 - For free training for UMass students, access: <http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=main.students>
- AutoCAD 2011
 - (**This is a full FREE version for students**) <http://students.autodesk.com/?nd=register&und=624>
- Google Earth
 - – free download at: <http://earth.google.com/>
- Google SketchUp8 Pro
 - (** student pricing**) <http://sketchup.google.com/industries/edu/students.html>
- MaxQDA
 - <http://www.maxqda.com/shop/order>
- OIT has free downloads for virus protection software at:
 - <http://www.oit.umass.edu/software/download/index.html>

OTHER VALUABLE LINKS and INFORMATION

Our Department Home page: <http://www.umass.edu/larp>

List of useful links: <http://www.umass.edu/larp/home.html>

We are on Facebook as: UMass Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.

Library: UMass has an excellent library with multiple computer resources and is open 24 hours during the academic year. The website can be found at <http://www.library.umass.edu/>. Our department has an “embedded” librarian, Madeline Charney. She is available at mcharney@library.umass.edu or http://works.bepress.com/charney_madeleine/ to assist with research or library questions. She holds office hours in Hills North during the academic year.