LA&RP Computer Requirements

Department requires all LARP Students to have their own Windows Compatible laptop computer.
Netbook/tablets computers do not have enough capacity for the minimum computer programs

PURCHASING A COMPUTER

Owning a laptop is a departmental requirement as well as an academic investment. Many incoming students inquire about what type of laptop, brand or platform the department recommends. As a student in our department you will be spending large amounts of time on your computer you should design it to meet your individual needs and preferences. This document intends to be a helpful guide & collection of relevant information.

Computer purchases may be incorporated into your [Financial Aid](#) package. (click for the [computer purchase appeal form](#) pdf).

PC OR MAC

ArcGIS and Lumion only run on the WINDOWS platform. There are several choices available for Apple Macintosh and iOS users: https://blogs.esri.com/esri/arcgis/2016/03/08/arcgis-pro-in-mac-os-x/

- Web-based GIS **
- ArcGIS.com Viewer **
- Windows-based tools under BootCamp
- Windows-based tools under Parallels
- Windows-based tools under VMware Fusion
- Mobile Apps for iOS Devices

HARDWARE

LARP computer course work involves mapping and graphics programs. These require a high level of processing speed and file sizes are large. Therefore, when you are buying a laptop, invest in the fastest processor, the most RAM and largest Hard Drive you can afford. No student has ever complained that his or her laptop is too fast.

We recommend the following minimum standards:

- 2.33 GHz
- 16 GB RAM
- 3D class video graphics card by NVIDIA or AMD
  (Intel-based graphics cards are not recommended)
- 500 GB hard drive or larger is recommended
- Wireless card

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

Optional Purchases:

- Optical or wireless mouse.
- An external hard drive (for back up or sharing files).

SOFTWARE

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.

Major	Microsoft office	Adobe CC (Latest version)	Sketchup Pro 2018	AutoCAD 2018/2019	ArcGIS 10.4/ 10.5/10.6 / ArcGIS Pro 2.1	Google Earth Pro	AntiVirus
BSLA							
Freshmen	✓	✓				✓	✓
sophomore	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Junior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Senior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BSSCD(BSED)							
Freshmen	✓						✓
sophomore	✓						✓
Junior	✓				✓ [1]	✓ [1]	✓
Senior	✓				✓ [1]	✓ [1]	✓
MLA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MRP	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cost-Estimate[2]	**Free**	**$20/mo**	**$49**	**FREE to students through educational access.**			

1. *Depending on concentration; please discuss with your program director.*
2. *Cost Estimates are for educational pricing for 2018-2019 Academic year and only as a guide*

Free downloads

- **ArcGIS** - FREE 1 yr license code will be provided for you by your class instructor.
- **AutoCAD 2019** http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/autocad
- **Google Earth Pro** http://www.google.com/earth/download/gep/agree.html
- **UMass IT free downloads** https://www.it.umass.edu/software/supported_software
- **Box** Secure Online Storage at UMass Amherst http://www.it.umass.edu/box

Optional Softwares

Additional Software some of our student used during the previous years:

- **Statistical software** http://www.umass.edu/statdata/software/
- **NVivo** https://www.umass.edu/issr/what-we-do/nvivo
- **MaxQDA** http://www.maxqda.com/licenses/students/order-information
- **Rhino** https://www.rhino3d.com/sales/north-america/United_States
- **Lumion** http://lumion3d.com/ (Graphics Card: Minimum 8,000 PassMark points, 6GB memory or more and compatible with DirectX 11 or later.)
- **Vectorworks**: http://student.myvectorworks.net/
- **Final Cut Pro**: http://www.apple.com/finalcutpro/

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.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- **UMass Information Technology(IT):** Computer resources on Campus for all UMass Students. http://www.it.umass.edu/ 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, NetID and SPIRE #.
- **No one from the University, IT or the Department will ever ask for your password.**
- Computer assistance is also available through the **learning commons** at the library. http://www.library.umass.edu/locations/learningcommons/
- IT provides **real-time information** on computer station access around campus. http://www.it.umass.edu/computer-classrooms
- Each semester the department hires two Graduate students as **Digital Media Teaching Assistant** to help studios with computer related activities. Their contact information will be shared at the beginning of the semester, along with scheduled office hours. https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/computing

COMPUTER LAB

The Department has two **computer lab** (Design Building 235 & 260) with a full suite of software including; Microsoft Office, Adobe CC, ArcGIS, AutoCAD, sketchup and other rendering programs. (See a full list of software installed on computers in our classrooms.)

Our printing/plotting lab (Design Building 260A) contains a black & white printer, a color printer, and three high-speed plotters. The labs are open to all students in the department. Wireless Internet (Eduroam) is available throughout the campus.

We also share a GIS Lab (Morrill III 212.) with Geosciences, Forestry and Wildlife Management.
There are computer classrooms (both PC and Mac) throughout the University campus run by UMass IT. Each classroom has either a black and white or color printer available to Pay-for-Prints. Check IT classroom hours.

Students are expected to have an UMass computer account. This provides e-mail and Internet access from any machine that has a direct (Ethernet) connection or a wireless connection. Information regarding UMass ID/Accounts can be found at https://www.it.umass.edu/accounts

OTHER VALUABLE LINKS/ INFORMATION

UMass students have access to many FREE services at UMAss Information Technology (IT) not limited to downloads, workshops, guides, online training. There is also hardware support/repairs for additional fees. Official correspondence is sent to your UMass email address. These may include job postings, scholarship opportunities, event reminders and other important academic correspondence. **Students are responsible to check their UMass email on a regular basis** or ensure proper forwarding.

Department Home page: http://www.umass.edu/larp
Facebook:

UMass Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning
https://www.facebook.com/umasslarp

Library – UMass has an excellent library with multiple computer resources and is open 24 hours during the academic year. http://www.library.umass.edu/

SUGGESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

~~~ "I love my Mac but didn't want to partion my drive or run windows but now I have to run GIS in the Dubois library. I would rather be in studio."

~~~"If you are sticking with PC's, HP online often allows deferred financing with no interest or payments if paid in a year... Also "Microcenter" with a store in Cambridge sells refurbished machines at a good price, both online and in store. Students should also keep an eye out for open box specials at stores like Best Buy or Microcenter, often marked with a yellow tag. Finally, www.tigerdirect.com and Frys also have good deals as well as reasonable prices on components if all that is required are modest upgrades. Lastly, for most lasting investment, I'd recommend quad core if possible. 1 gig graphics and at least 8 gigs of RAM."

~~~"I am glad I sprang for the 17" screen whenever I run CAD. It is worth carrying the extra weight."

~~~" I'm an RP student and the package seemed too big for my needs. I used the computer lab in Morrill to work on my GIS projects."