

COMPUTER POLICY

School of Architecture
Louisiana Tech University

The School of Architecture (SOA) requires that each student entering the Sophomore Year or Professional Concentration Level of its two programs have access to a laptop computer *in class* for the written, calculating, and graphic work associated with required courses.

The School of Architecture requires that the computer possess the minimum specifications that will accommodate current teaching software including: AutoCAD 2004, Form•Z 6.0 w/RenderZone, 3D Studio Max w/Lightscape, Adobe Creative Suite 2.0, Sketch-up 5.0, and Rhino.

The *minimum specifications* are as follows:

- Intel Processor: Pentium IV – 1.2 GHz
- Display: 14.1” (Diagonal) XGA (15” recommended)
- Video Card: 128MB video memory mobile graphics card (256MB recommended)
- Memory: 512MB SDRAM, (1GB recommended)
- Hard Drive: 60GB or more 5400 RPM (7200 RPM recommended)
- Operating System: Windows XP
- Network Card: 10/100 Ethernet (confirm networking capabilities with technical services)
- Modem Card (for student requiring dial-up connections in rural areas): 56K Modem (or network cards that have both Ethernet and Modem)
- CD Drive: Rewritable CD-ROM Drive
- Mouse: USB optical mouse
- Sound Card and Integrated Speakers

Recommended, but *not required*:

- Laptop Carrying Case: allowing to easily attach computer to non-portable devices, printers, and monitors
- Desktop Printer
- AC Adaptor w/Cord
- Digital Camera
- Software: Microsoft Office XP
- Virus Software and Spy Software
- USB Memory Drive: 256MB (1GB suggested)
- Spare Battery

Suggestion: When computer shopping, many companies such as Best Buy and Circuit City are unfamiliar with the graphics requirements associated with applications such as Form•Z or Rhino. The SOA recommends that you consider systems similar to those that will support 3-D animated gaming. These systems often have comparable video cards and sufficient memory necessary to support the 3-D modeling and animation software required by the SOA.

The School of Architecture does not recommend any vendor or manufacturer of computer equipment. However, all software applications supplied by the SOA are PC based, and all peripheral hardware is configured to operate from a PC platform; Mac configurations are not supported through the school.

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