DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
STUDENT LAPTOP REQUIREMENTS

Applies to BLA and MLA

Success in the Landscape Architecture curriculum requires a laptop capable of running advanced design, modeling, and visualization software. Students must enter the program with a computer that meets or exceeds the following specifications.

OPERATING SYSTEM

Windows 11 (64-bit) is required. Many essential applications run only on Windows.

NOTE: Macs can be used only if running Windows through BootCamp/Parallels, but performance may be reduced; this is not recommended.

LAPTOP

Processor: Intel Core i7 or i9 (12th generation or newer) or AMD Ryzen 7 or Ryzen 9 (5000 series or newer)

Memory: Minimum: 32 GB RAM, Design and visualization programs running simultaneously (AutoCAD + Adobe + Rhino) require substantial memory for smooth performance.

Storage: Minimum: 1 TB SSD; Recommended: 2 TB SSD; Solid-state drives (SSD) are essential for fast file loading and rendering. Traditional spinning hard drives (5400/7200 RPM) are strongly discouraged.

Graphics Card: Minimum: 4 GB dedicated GPU. Recommended: NVIDIA RTX 4060/4070 or better for Lumion, V-Ray, and advanced visualization.

Display: Minimum resolution: 1920 × 1080; Screen size is a balance between portability and usability (13–16" suggested).

Connectivity: Built-in 802.11ac/ax Wi-Fi and Bluetooth; HDMI port (or USB-C adapter) for connecting to studio monitors and projectors.

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES

External Monitor: If your laptop screen is under 13", a 22" or larger external display is required for studio work.

Mouse: An external optical mouse with additional buttons (e.g., Logitech - Signature M650 L or equivalent - required)

Headset with Microphone (required)

External Storage: 1–2 TB external drive recommended for backup and archiving (optional if laptop has 2 TB internal SSD).

UF-PROVIDED / FREE STUDENT LICENSES

- o Microsoft Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- o ArcGIS Pro (free through UF Bookstore & GeoPlan Center, https://www.geoplan.ufl.edu/software/arcgis-pro/
- o AutoCAD & Civil 3D (Autodesk Educational License)

- Land F/X (free educational license)
- Google Earth Pro
- SketchUp

ADDITIONAL DESIGN & VISUALIZATION TOOLS

Additional software may be required for certain courses.

- Adobe Creative Cloud Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, After Effects, Acrobat Pro)
- Rhino 7 (or current version) - (student pricing available through McNeel)
- Grasshopper (included with Rhino)
- V-Ray for Rhino *Students should wait to purchase V-Ray until enrolled in the Advanced Design Communication course.*

SECURITY: Your computer must meet all UF Information Security policies, including:

- Active antivirus/anti-malware software
- Regular operating system updates
  Check with the UF Computing Help Desk for current standards.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- 11×17 color printer and scanner
- Graphics tablet (e.g., Wacom Intuos)
- Additional adapters for presentation monitors/projectors