INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM

Computer Requirements
2011-2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
COLLEGE of HEALTH, EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Introduction

Over the past two decades, electronic technology has had a major impact on the interior design profession. The UTC Interior Design program is committed to the integration of computers throughout the design curriculum. Each student in the interior design program is required to purchase a laptop computer upon successful completion of the Sophomore Juried Portfolio Review for integration into third and forth year classes.

Research conducted on laptop programs indicates that laptops contribute to the quantity and quality of student work along with improved motivation to do the work (Albion, 1998). Interior Design programs across the nation and within the state of Tennessee have begun this implementation. These programs show that the required purchase of a laptop computer by design students has proven to be an excellent investment, not only toward required computer courses, but also in studio design applications. A study by Virginia North on required laptop policies states that an interesting result has been an increase in quality of non-computer generated work. This was contributed to increased efficiency and access to resources (North, 2001).

Computer Applications in Interior Design Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTD 2050</td>
<td>Color Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 2100</td>
<td>Visual Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 2150</td>
<td>Computer Application in Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 3000</td>
<td>Kitchen and Bath Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 3050</td>
<td>Computer-Aided Design I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 3100</td>
<td>Residential Interiors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 3150</td>
<td>Computer-Aided Design II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 3230</td>
<td>Interior Lighting Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 4000</td>
<td>Contract Interiors I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 4050</td>
<td>Responsive Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 4100</td>
<td>Contract Interiors II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 4200</td>
<td>Internship Preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTD 4210</td>
<td>Business Practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Computer Purchase Requirements:

PC

Required Hardware

Hardware:
• Intel Core i5 or i7
• Dedicated 512 MB or higher Video Card (1GB preferred)
• 4 GB of RAM (8GB preferred)
• 250 GB Hard Drive
• DVD/CD-RW Drive
• 15” screen or larger (17” or larger would be desirable)
• 1280 x 800 or higher display resolution
• 802.11n WiFi
• External mouse with at least 3 buttons

** If purchasing an Apple computer, you must still meet all of the above requirements, including purchasing a copy of Windows 7. You will need to have your computer setup with Boot Camp to be able to boot into Windows and utilize the AutoDesk software. Parallels or VMWare Fusion may work, but Boot Camp is the most reliable and preferred method.

Required Software
MicroStation V8 (AutoCAD textbook comes with a 1-year license)
Windows 7
Adobe Design Standard CS5.5
Sketchup Pro v. 8

Where to Purchase

Effort has been made to obtain an academic discount through www.DELL.com, however, due to the volatile nature of hardware prices, you may get better price through a mail order catalog or a local computer store. In addition, it is very important to protect your investment with an insurance rider. Note that any student who does not have, by the first day of the Fall Semester or their 2nd year, the required software and hardware as specified in this handbook will not be permitted to enroll in 2000, 3000 or 4000 level Interior Design classes. Finally, the laptop computer you purchase must meet the requirements of the UTC Interior Design Program as described in this booklet.

As a student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, you are eligible to purchase a computer system at discount prices from www.DELL.com. We have made every effort to obtain the best possible discount on computer systems. However, computer system prices fluctuate depending on supply and demand. Hence, these prices may not reflect the current market price. You may find lower prices through a mail order catalog or a computer store in your area. We recommend that you compare our prices with other sources in your area before making a purchase.
Students at UTC can purchase software from [www.campusE.com](http://www.campusE.com) or [www.journeyed.com](http://www.journeyed.com) or [www.academicsuperstore.com](http://www.academicsuperstore.com) at educational discounts. Often, stores and websites will have sales or promotions. We encourage you to compare the educational price with other sales or promotions in your area.

**Financing and Insurance**

**FINANCING YOUR PURCHASE**

If you are planning to finance your purchase, we recommend that you select the hardware that you prefer and purchase the required and recommended software at the same time. This way the entire purchase can be financed in one step.

The following information is provided to give you some financing options. These financing options are available whether you make your purchase through the University Computer Store or through another retailer.

**INTERIOR DESIGN LAPTOP LOAN**

For students with *demonstrated* financial need, the Interior Design Program is working to obtain a laptop computer for loan. Successful applicants would keep the computer for the Fall and Spring semesters. Thereafter, they return the computer and are encouraged to purchase their own laptop. Loan applications will be available from your advisor.

**FINANCIAL AID**

If you are applying for financial aid, check with the Financial Aid office at the University to see if the computer and software purchase can be included in your financial aid package.

**YOUR BANKING INSTITUTION**

Contact your banking institution to see if their loan package is more competitive.

**INSURANCE**

Protect your investment with an insurance rider. Speak to your insurance agent about insuring your computer. Some insurance companies will include your computer under renter's insurance. If you or your parents have a homeowners insurance policy, you may be able to insure your computer with an optional rider.

Some computer manufacturers offer extended warranties that cover damage or theft.
Common Questions

HAS THE SYSTEM OR SOFTWARE BEEN LIMITED BECAUSE OF EDUCATIONAL PRICING?
No. Your system and software will have the full capabilities of any sold to the general public. It has not been altered or limited in any form.

IF I ALREADY HAVE A SYSTEM, CAN I BUY THE SOFTWARE SEPARATELY?
Yes. Make sure the system meets the requirements.

IF I DON'T BUY A COMPUTER, IS THERE ONE I CAN USE?
The laptop is required for class. You will not be able to complete the assignments and projects in the required computer courses, required labs, and design studios without your own laptop. For students with demonstrated financial need, the Interior Design Program is working to obtain a laptop computer to be made available for loan.

I ALREADY OWN A DESKTOP SYSTEM. DO I STILL NEED TO BUY A LAPTOP?
Yes. You are required to use a laptop computer in studios and classrooms.

IS THERE FINANCING AVAILABLE?
Several local banks will finance computer equipment. In addition, several manufacturers have special educational financing available.

SHOULD I INSURE MY COMPUTER?
Yes. We strongly recommend that you purchase insurance for your computer. Neither the Interior Design Program nor the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is liable for any theft or damage to personal equipment. It is your responsibility to safeguard your equipment. Keep your purchase receipt in a safe place: it contains the serial number of your computer and will be required for identification of lost goods and for warranty repairs.

IS THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE MINE OR DOES IT BELONG TO THE UNIVERSITY?
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Citations