

Student Workstation Guidelines 2005

All departments in the College of Environmental Design recommend that new students acquire a personal computer prior to the start of classes. Students are permitted to bring laptop or desktop configurations. Students should balance the expense of mobile computing platforms with the cost of acquisition and security.

The College of Environmental Design workstation inventory is almost entirely based on the Microsoft Windows operating system. All lab machines and discipline specific software applications used in instruction operate on a Windows platform. There are UNIX based server platforms and a few Macintosh based workstations, however, the recommended platform for student workstations is a Windows machine. Students may use a Macintosh, however, available software remains limited at this time.

In addition, the student will be responsible for maintaining his or her own equipment and applications, so the acquisition of a hardware service contract (usually available at cost with the purchase of new machines) is highly advisable.

The recommended workstation configuration is as follows:

Processor: 2.8 - 3.0+ GHz Microprocessor (Desktop)
1.5 – 2.0 GHz Microprocessor (Notebook)

RAM: 1 GB or more

Hard Disk: 80 GB

Video: 1024x768, 16 million color minimum
Hardware accelerated 3D operations

CDRW/DVDROM: 16x speed minimum

Operating System: Windows XP Professional; Mac OS X 10.3 or above

Applications: Virus Scan - Norton Anti Virus (available through campus free of charge)
Browser- Explorer 6.x
Electronic Document Exchange – Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.x or full version
Office Suite - Microsoft Office 2000x Professional Edition Minimum 2003 preferred

Optional Applications Available Through the Department:

Raster Editing Software (Adobe Photoshop, GIMP or similar)
Illustration Software (Adobe Illustrator, Macromedia Freehand or other)
CAD (AutoCAD, Micro station, ArchiCAD)
3D Modeling (3D Studio, Form Z, MAYA)
Web Authoring (Macromedia Studio MX, Microsoft FrontPage or other)

Low cost versions of many software packages are also available through the campus student store

The College does not specify any particular vendor's hardware, and students are free to acquire equipment from the vendor of their choice. Campus maintains a computer store known as The Scholar's Workstation (TSW), which is located on the 1st floor of University Hall, 2200 University Ave. room 41, (www.tsw.berkeley.edu). The Scholar's Workstation maintains student pricing on several brand name vendor's products including Dell, IBM, Toshiba and Apple Computers and also provides technical support for those products for a fee.

Additionally, physical security should be a primary concern when using equipment in the design studio or in any public space on campus. Wurster Hall operates on a 24/7 schedule and building and studio security is maintained by limited card keyed access, combination keypads on studio doors and security cameras at entrances and exits, however individual security is at the student's discretion. The studio furniture provides a steel storage locker that can be secured with the student's own lock but they are not tamperproof. It is large enough to hold a mid-tower computer configuration but will not hold a computer monitor. There are provisions in the furniture configuration for power and for students to lock desktop equipment with cable locks or other non-destructive security devices available from most computer equipment retailers. Supplemental locks are highly recommended.