Laptop Recommendations - Academic Year 2020-2021
Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology
School of Media, Art & Design (Updated July 22, 2020)

For students taking the following laptop-based programs in the School of Media, Art & Design. (See last page for students taking desktop programs while working from home.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Recommended Laptop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts - Advanced (Year 2)</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Air® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR and Strategic Communications</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Air® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising - Digital Media Management</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and Marketing Communications</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcasting - Radio and Contemporary Media</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Web Design</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive Media Design</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism - Mass Media</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism and Creative Writing</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>13-inch MacBook Pro® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Design</td>
<td>16-inch MacBook Pro® with 512GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Production</td>
<td>16-inch MacBook Pro® with 512GB storage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why Mac®?
Students breaking into creative and design professions need to be familiar with hardware and software used in industry. Our Program Advisories monitor this closely. Student success is our goal.

Students need to purchase the following items:
1) Apple MacBook Pro® 13- or 16-inch. MacBook Air® (2020) for Public Relations or Fine Arts Year 2.
2) Portable storage device for backup (Photography/Video/Web/Interactive are provided a backup drive in the kit they receive in first year.) We recommend an external bus-powered hard drive or SSD.
3) Ethernet adapter or USB-C® dock that includes Ethernet (To convert USB-C® to Ethernet.)
4) Ethernet cable (To connect to the campus network at high speed.)
5) Three-prong Power Adapter Extension Cable (Some labs may need this.)

Do not buy any software:
1) Do not buy a subscription to Adobe® Creative Cloud®. This is provided for eligible programs.
2) Do not buy Microsoft Office® as students can download this for free from DC Mail.
3) Apple sells something called the Education Bundle but we don't use those software titles.

Apple MacBook Pro®
With the MacBook Pro® you get better performance and a brighter Retina® display. For some programs we recommend the 16-inch model for its discrete graphics and better screen resolution but students on a budget are free to purchase the 13-inch model. We recommend a 13-inch MacBook Pro® or a 13-inch MacBook Air® (2020 model), depending upon which program you are entering. The MacBook Air® is suitable for PR and Strategic Communications and Fine Arts Year 2.
Laptop Recommendations - Academic Year 2020-2021

Where to Buy
You can buy online from Apple Canada. To obtain student pricing online, please visit this URL: https://www.apple.com/ca_edu_93120/shop

You also need to purchase:
- Three-prong Power Adapter Extension Cable, Part number: MK122LL/A
- Card reader (or USB-C® dock) for your camera if needed.

While we recommend a 13-inch notebook, but if your vision isn't 20/20 you may prefer the 16-inch model, although these are more expensive.

Configure to Order
Most students like to buy off-the-shelf. However, there are advantages to customizing your own configure-to-order (CTO) Mac®. You can only do that online. To obtain student pricing online, please visit this URL: https://www.apple.com/ca_edu_93120/shop

You can increase the amount of solid-state storage. You can increase the amount of memory. In terms of priority, we recommend additional storage before additional memory but the choice is a personal one and how it affects your budget. You can upgrade to a better processor, dependent on your budget.

NOTE: These upgrades cannot be added after the purchase because they are surface mounted onto the main logic board at the factory.

Additional Items
Please buy an Ethernet cable (Category 6) 1-2 meters, to connect to the Campus network. You can buy these inexpensively online through AmazonBasics®, for example. If you are scheduled in room B105A (Photography or Video) please get a 2-meter cable as the ports in B105A are on the floor.

Apple normally runs a student promotion during the summer months, June to early September. This year they are throwing in AirPods®. We have no influence on Apple's pricing, promotions or product refresh cycles. Time your purchase no earlier than three weeks before school begins to ensure you get the latest and greatest. If you prefer to purchase your notebook computer immediately, keep in mind that a better model may be released at a later date for a similar price. That is simply the nature of the computer industry. Please see Apple's website for details on their refund/exchange policies.

Extended Warranties
Apple notebook computers come with a one-year hardware warranty and 90 days of phone support. Apple's extended warranty is called AppleCare+®. Users can purchase it at any time during the first 60 days after buying a new Mac. AppleCare+ for Mac extends your coverage to three years and adds up to two incidents of accidental damage coverage, each subject to a service fee, with some limitations. See Apple's website for details. AppleCare+ can save you the expense of a costly repair.

Other vendors may offer their own extended warranties which should not be confused with Apple's offering. Warranties from other vendors can only be processed by those vendors. Non-Apple warranties may limit your service options and repair completion time. It is important for the buyer to assess the risk that a retail institution may go out of business before the buyer needs to make a warranty claim.
Laptop Recommendations - Academic Year 2020-2021

Insurance
While AppleCare+ covers up to two incidents of accidental damage, it does not include coverage for theft, fire or flood. Please add your new notebook computer to your household or tenant insurance policy to protect your new purchase.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Can I bring a Windows®-based notebook computer?
One of your learning outcomes is to learn how to use macOS® based computers found in our industry. You can’t do that unless you have a Mac. Students who bring a Windows-based notebook computer will have difficulty following Mac-based instructions, collaborating in groups, may encounter cross-platform issues, difficulty connecting to servers, difficulty printing. If you purchase a Windows-based laptop that is less than $2000 (approximately), it will have an inferior display and may not perform as well as a Mac notebook. Students with computers that do not meet our hardware requirements must be self-supporting. Faculty do not support Windows laptops.

Please do not expect to complete your program with a computer more than a few years old or a computer that does not have hardware specifications similar to the MacBook Pro® as recommended in the chart on the first page of this document.

What if I purchased my Mac laptop before these new models came out?
Please do not bring a Macintosh that was manufactured before (approx.) 2016. We recommend:

- 8 GB or 16 GB or 32GB of memory (RAM)
- Intel® Core i5™ or Intel® Core i7™ (9th generation or newer)
- Apple Retina® display (13-inch or larger)
- Solid state drive (SSD) 256 GB or larger

Can I get by without a notebook with my desktop at home or in residence?
Students are expected to have a mobile learning device (a notebook computer) in order to complete assignments and collaborative work in class. This is CRITICAL to student success.

How do I get the best price?
Make sure you are buying from the online Apple Canada education store (https://www.apple.com/ca_edu_93120/shop) or if in person, bring your student ID or proof of enrolment. Time your purchase to take advantage of promotions. Don’t buy generic computer accessories from Apple; shop around for these. Instead of buying new, consider a refurbished or used Apple Macintosh notebook computer. If you are buying used from local "buy and sell" sites such as Kijiji, be sure you know what to look for. Meet any potential sellers indoors, in a well-lit public place, and bring a Mac expert with you, if possible. Or select a reseller that specializes in used computers such as https://www.macdoc.com or others.

Besides the recommended notebook computer, what else will I need?
Students should come to the college with the following: One Category 6 Ethernet cable to connect to the campus network, 1-2 meters in length. You need an Ethernet adapter or USB-C® dock that includes an Ethernet port. Most programs recommend a portable hard drive or solid-state drive for backup. We recommend 1TB minimum. Some programs include a portable hard drive in the student kit. You can
Laptop Recommendations - Academic Year 2020-2021

choose to buy an external SSD instead of a hard drive to get better performance and reliability at a somewhat higher cost.

The college has wireless networking. Why do I need Ethernet?
Ethernet is hundreds of times faster than wireless networking, the cost to plug in is minimal and you only have to buy your adapter (or USB-C® dock) and Ethernet cable once. Ethernet is essential.

How much is enough memory?
Choosing how much memory for your computer is a balancing act between cost and performance. For editing video, more memory means better performance. For video editing Adobe® recommends 8GB or 16GB of RAM, or 32GB of RAM for 4K video, but we don't ask students to shoot in 4K.

Can I get by with an iPad®, iPad Pro® or other tablet?
Although a tablet can be useful for many tasks, a Macintosh® notebook computer is needed to meet all learning outcomes and to work in groups. This may change as new software becomes available.

I understand Apple® is transitioning away from Intel® processors. Should I wait until the fall to buy?
Apple® has promised the first Mac running Apple® silicon will be released before the end of 2020. It may have better speed, graphics and battery life than Apple's Intel-based Mac systems, but you will need a machine once classes begin and we don't have a precise timeline for Apple silicon Macs.

Buying a used or refurbished MacBook Pro®
If you are buying a used or refurbished MacBook Pro®, use these specifications to ensure your purchase will meet our requirements. To check the specifications on a Mac, click on the Apple menu and select About This Mac. In the dialog box that appears, and click More Info... If you need assistance please contact the author of this document. Contact information is at the end.

Processor
Intel® 9th Gen or 10th Gen CPU.

Memory
8 GB is the minimum. 16 GB of RAM is recommended for video editing of HD media, 32 GB for 4K video or if you make extensive use of Adobe® After Effects®.

Storage
A Solid-State Drive (SSD) for mass storage is required, 256 GB or larger.

Operating System
macOS version 10.14 (Mojave®) or 10.15 (Catalina®). Operating systems older than 10.13 are not compatible with Adobe® Creative Cloud® and Office 365®.
Laptop Recommendations - Academic Year 2020-2021

For students who must work from home due to the COVID-19 situation, we recommend laptops for those programs as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Recommended Laptop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animation - Digital Production¹</td>
<td>16-inch MacBook Pro® with 512GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animation - Digital Production¹</td>
<td>Windows Power Performance Laptop²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts - Advanced (Year 1)</td>
<td>2020 13-inch MacBook Air® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations in Art and Design¹</td>
<td>2020 13-inch MacBook Air® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Fundamentals¹</td>
<td>2020 13-inch MacBook Air® with 256GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animation - Digital Production¹</td>
<td>16-inch MacBook Pro® with 512GB storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animation - Digital Production¹</td>
<td>Windows Power Performance Laptop²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Art¹</td>
<td>Windows Power Performance Laptop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Business Admin (2 year)¹</td>
<td>Windows Standard Performance Laptop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Business Management (3 year)¹</td>
<td>Windows Standard Performance Laptop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Windows Standard Performance Laptop: 8GB of RAM, Intel® Core i3™ or AMD Equivalent processor (or better), 256GB SSD storage, basic GPU or integrated graphics, 13- or 14-inch display.

Windows Power Performance Laptop: 16GB of RAM (or 32GB if rendering in 4K), Intel® Core i7™ 9th or 10th generation processor, DirectX 11 or 12 compatible GPU, Windows 10 64-bit, 15 to 17-inch display.

1. These programs are normally held in desktop labs on-campus.
2. Optional hardware for Animation program students.

Is there someone I can contact for more information? Please email Jim at: jim.ferr@durhamcollege.ca

Apple, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac, macOS, Mojave, Catalina, AirPods, iPad and iPad Pro are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.
Microsoft, Windows and Office 365 are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.
Adobe, Creative Cloud, After Effects, Premiere Pro, are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems Inc.
AmazonBasics is a trademark of Amazon Technologies, Inc.
Intel®, Intel® Core i3™, Intel® Core i5™ and Intel® Core i7™ are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.
“USB-C®” is a registered trademark of the USB Implementers Forum.
Other trademarks are trademarks of their respective companies.