

<< **Graphic Design Concentration MacBook Pro laptop Program Requirement** >>

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do USD Graphic Design students need to have a laptop computer?**

Yes. All USD Department of Art, Graphic Design students on Vermillion campus must purchase this required Apple MacBook Pro Laptop.  
Laptop System [Ordering Information](#).

*Availability and order by dates:*

*Fall Semester – July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Spring Semester – November 10 through February 30<sup>th</sup>*

The University of South Dakota, Department of Art, Graphic Design Area is committed to fully utilizing computer technology across it's curriculum. USD Faculty creatively incorporate technology into our day-to-day teaching and learning activities. To better support the learner in our flexible innovative environment, all Graphic Design students must have an Apple laptop computer.

**If I already have a computer, do I have to purchase another?**

No, as long as your laptop computer is fully capable of running the required software. However, considering that the Graphic Design program at USD utilizes the Apple Macintosh as it's primary platform for instruction, it is highly recommended that you take part in the program.

**When do I order my laptop?**

All students entering and currently enrolled in a Graphic Design concentration in the Department of Art will be required to purchase a laptop computer with specified creative software, utilizing the chart below:

*2nd Year Graphic Design Students (upon enrolling in Graphic Design II) – MUST purchase a computer, following the current required system specifications.*

*Transfer Graphic Design Students - MUST purchase a computer following current required system specifications.*

*4th, and 5th Year Graphic Design Students – SHOULD consider upgrading the software (tools) and consider purchasing a new computer.*

**What is the estimated cost of my Apple laptop?**

Apple has provided a special link via the University of South Dakota Apple Store. Use your USD login and password to access the University recommended MacBook:  
<https://www.usd.edu/its/techsupport/apple> or [http://store.apple.com/us\\_edu\\_378517/recommended](http://store.apple.com/us_edu_378517/recommended)

**What additional purchases are required for my Laptop?**

Adobe CS 4 Design Premium (InDesign, Illustrator, PhotoShop, Acrobat Pro, Fireworks, Flash and Dreamweaver), along with Office Mac or Microsoft Office are required. Use your USD login and password to access the University recommended software store: <http://southdakota.onthehub.com>

Students are not required to purchase a printer but must have ready access to one. A network printer and various color devices are available in the Department of Art, Graphic Design space and students are assessed a fee to print.

**Who will set-up my laptop so it is ready for my first day of class?**

Students are responsible for their own purchases of software and installing the software. Apple will be available for both Fall/Spring workshops to assist students.

**Where will I be able to use my laptop?**

Your Apple MacBook Pro will come with the following network communication options so that you can connect in a variety of ways:

- Built-in 54-Mbps AirPort Extreme wireless networking (802.11g standard; 802.11n capable)
- Built-in 10/100/1000BASE-T Gigabit Ethernet (RJ-45 connector)
- Built-in Bluetooth 2.0+EDR (Enhanced Data Rate)

**How will I use my Mac Book Pro laptop computer?**

You will be expected to access your personal files and the Internet in every course both in and outside the classroom. By having a laptop, you will have ready access to resources which will encourage and support self-paced quality independent learning.

**Will financial aid include the cost of my Apple MacBook Pro laptop?**

The Financial Aid Department will "increase the budget" for the cost of a computer up to \$3000 one time while the student is in college, if you send Financial Aid a copy of the PAID receipt. "Increasing the budget" does not necessarily mean you will get reimbursed or even qualify for an additional loan. If you have already been fully packaged with federal Stafford loans (which the government backs), then the loan you will be offered will be an "alternative loan" which is a private loan through a bank with higher interest rates and subject to a credit check before approval. Please be aware private loans require a co-signer and may not be funded. If you have further questions on your financial aid please contact Grace Bick at [Grace.Bick@usd.edu](mailto:Grace.Bick@usd.edu)

**What about warranties and security?**

*Students will be liable for the security, care and maintenance of their computer.* Therefore, purchasing Apple Care is mandatory. Students should also check with their homeowners insurance for additional coverage benefits.

**Other questions?**

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