COLLEGE *for* Creative STUDIES

2018 – 2019
Laptop Requirements

For Communication Design and Advertising Design Students

The Communication Design and Advertising Design departments have a personal laptop computer requirement for incoming students. Other CCS departments do not have a requirement at this time; inquire with your department for technology recommendations specific to your major.

What should I get?

Computer Specs:

It is important that laptops for the required programs meet the minimum specifications provided below so that you will be able to run the required software, participate in course activities and projects, and prepare and display presentations.

Apple MacBook Pro
- 2.2 GHz 6-core Intel i7 processor
- Radeon Pro 555X with 4GB memory
- 16GB RAM
- 256GB SSD storage
- USB-C to Gigabit
  to Ethernet Adapter
- Apple Care Protection Plan
- $2,250 at the Apple store for
  Education website *(August 2018)*

How to purchase?
This product is available at the online Apple Store for Education **(http://store.apple.com/us-hed/shop)**, any Apple Store location or Best Buy.

Protecting Your Laptop
CCS recommends that you carry the maximum warranty protection available for your laptop.

For your MacBook Pro, we strongly recommend the AppleCare three-year protection plan, as it covers your laptop against all defects and most mechanical issues. It also provides onsite or phone service and support as well as global service, parts and labor for all covered needs. It does not cover loss or physical damage.

It is not unusual to experience at least one failure or need for repair in three years, such as a hard drive failure, graphics card failure, or an issue with your screen or laptop case. The labor and parts for such repairs are covered under extended warranties, saving you time, money and frustration.

In addition, we recommend carrying personal property insurance or adding your laptop to your parents' or your own homeowners' or renters insurance to cover damage, theft or loss.

Protecting Your Work
Students with laptops should also have an external hard drive with a minimum of one terabyte of storage. We strongly recommend keeping your external hard drive in a consistent, clean and stable environment and backing up your laptop once a day. Also, do not carry your external hard drive around with you in a back pack or other case or use it continually to access files. This will help to extend the life of your external hard drive and protect it against file corruption or crashing your drive.

When connecting the hard drive you are using for backup for the first time, format it as Mac OS Extended (Journaled).

If you will be using your hard drive to share files between a Mac and a PC, format it as Fat32.

Software Requirements
Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) or Office 365
Available for free for students with a CCS username and password. Go to office.com/getoffice365. Click on the tab for "Students" and follow the directions from there.

Adobe Creative Cloud Subscription
Available at a 50% discount off of Adobe's lowest price with a CCS username and password. Go to collegeforcreativestudies.onthehub.com. Click on the "Start Shopping" button, and select "Student" as status and log in with your CCS credentials.

Adobe Font Folio Education Essentials 11.1
Required for all students enrolled in DGD 151, Typography I, as well as all Communication Design and Advertising Design students. Students will continue to use this package in DGD 152, Typography II and all other Communication Design and Advertising Design classes. $150 at Adobe.com.

Antivirus Software
It is highly recommended to run up-to-date antivirus software regularly.

Support for Your Laptop
The Academic Technologies department has technicians available Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. − 10:00 p.m. and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. − 4:00 p.m. for students who are seeking technical help with their Apple laptop. If your issue requires repair, Academic Technologies will refer you to area authorized service centers.

Students are required to keep software and operating updated at least yearly to remain compatible with CCS lab machines, rendering computers, output equipment, and other campus technologies.

Policies Governing Laptop Use at CCS
A full list of policies and information on accessing and using College systems, such as the CCS wireless network, printing and email, will be available for students participating in the laptop requirement at the beginning of each academic year.

This information and policies covering the following areas are also posted on Blackboard: Blackboard > Campus Offices > Academic Technologies

- CCS technology use policy
- Accessing the CCS network
- Software updates for your laptop and using CCS computers
- Backup and storage requirements: expectations and best practices
  to secure your work
- Treatment of confidential and/or proprietary information
  on your personal computer
- Use of antivirus software
- Seeking help in how to use your laptop
- Seeking help on technical issues

Please review these policies carefully. It is your responsibility to be in compliance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is an Apple MacBook Pro Required?
The laptop is a core creative tool for research, design and production, as well as in the creative industry. Apple is the dominant computer system. We require a MacBook Pro to help our students remain flexible and poised to participate in cutting edge education and to facilitate a more interdisciplinary and collaborative educational experience.

Working with Macs now will ensure a seamless transition from student to professional. Because of Apple's long history of being the "designer's computer," it has focused on improving the entire workflow experience, particularly when handling graphics, colors and fonts. Further, there are a significant number of useful tools for designers that are built into the Mac operating system.

Easily Share and Collaborate
Apple has created an ecosystem of devices and services that work seamlessly together. Students and faculty alike can easily share and sync files in real-time, an increasingly important part of the design process. A student can develop a prototype on his/her MacBook Pro, test and share those files on the iPhone and iPad, and ultimately present to the class using Apple TV.

An Integrated Approach
Unlike other computer platforms, Apple is unique in that it designs and supports both the hardware and the software (operating system), thus creating the entire user experience. This integrated approach allows for an incredibly reliable platform which maximizes user experience and performance.

While core software runs similarly on a Mac or a PC at a similar price point, this is only one component in your learning experience. With all the students working with the same hardware and software, the learning experience is placed on a level field. When the instructor discusses a feature or requests a certain method, it will be consistent on all the students' computers.

Where Do I Go for Technical Assistance for my Laptop?
When you have a problem and deadlines need to be met, it is important to know that CCS and Apple have people who know your system. CCS has staff to aid you who are trained in the Mac operating system and can help you with a variety of issues. Additionally, Apple has impressive and consistently highly rated customer service and product reliability.

Where Do I Go for Help in Using my Laptop?
If you need help in learning how to use the Apple operating system or other aspects of your Mac

If a technical issue is beyond the skills of the CCS technology staff, you can take your laptop to one of the many Apple Stores or Apple-certified service centers in the metro Detroit area or call Apple Support through your Apple Care Protection Plan.

laptop, ask your instructor for guidance. Your instructor will be able to work with you or pair you up with another student in your department, further enhancing our collaborative learning environment. If you need help using any software for your work, you may also visit the Student Success Center, where peer tutors are available to work with you.