



VirginiaTech

College of Architecture
and Urban Studies

School of Architecture and Design

2009-2010 Freshman

Orientation

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
An equal opportunity, affirmative action institution



Virginia Tech 2009 - 2010 Computer Requirements

Virginia Tech is committed to the education of the whole person. We recognize computers to be an extension of the learning tools needed to compete professionally and to co-exist socially. The training and computer interaction students receive at Virginia Tech will provide them with the skills necessary to achieve a high degree of success after leaving the University. For the 2009 - 2010 academic year, Virginia Tech requires a laptop or tablet computer.

Since 1998, each incoming undergraduate student has been required to own a personal computer. The university annually establishes baseline specifications for each new entering class. Transfer students are subject to the requirement that was in place for students at the same class level into which they enter. Broad specifications are announced mid-May for students entering in the fall of the next academic year. Some departments and colleges recommend a specific configuration from among the options outlined by the university. *No student will be denied admission to Virginia Tech based on an inability to purchase a computer.* Financial aid is available to assist students in their computer purchases.



School of Architecture and Design 2009 - 2010 Computer Requirements

Students enrolling in all undergraduate programs at Virginia Tech are required to have a personal computer. Please note that, beginning in 2008, the University now requires a *laptop/notebook* or *tablet* computer; a *desktop* computer is *not* an option.

PC or MAC?

The Architecture and Design programs do not have a platform preference. An Apple/Mac or IBM PC-compatible/Windows *laptop/notebook* or *tablet* computer, meeting the requirements here will be acceptable.

Please Note: If you are using an Apple/Mac, you will need to configure the software to allow you to run Microsoft Windows in addition to Mac OSX.



Virginia Tech 2009 - 2010 Computer Requirements

Platform	Windows Based PC
OS	Vista Business, Ultimate or Enterprise (32 bit)
Processor Speed	Core 2 Duo Processor (or AMD comparable) @ 2 Ghz or Higher
Memory (RAM)	2 GB or higher
Hard Drive (HD)	120 G or largers (5400 RPM minimum)
CD/DVD	DVD+-RW
External HD	160 GB or higher (for backups)
Portable HD	USB Flash Drive - 2 GB or higher
NIC/Wireless	Wired RJ-45 NIC Wireless 802.11 a/g (802.11n is compatible)
Video Ram	512 MB Open GL Accelerator graphics adapter
Screen Size	15" Display or larger
Warranty	3/4 year on-site service with accidental damage protection

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Virginia Tech 2009 - 2010 Computer Requirements

Platform	Apple Macintosh Based Computer
OS	OS X version 10.5 (or higher)
Processor Speed	Core 2 Duo Processor (or AMD comparable) @ 2 Ghz or Higher
Memory (RAM)	2 GB or higher
Hard Drive (HD)	120 G or largers (5400 RPM minimum)
CD/DVD	DVD+-RW
External HD	160 GB or higher (for backups)
Portable HD	USB Flash Drive - 2 GB or higher
NIC/Wireless	Wired RJ-45 NIC Wireless 802.11 a/g (802.11n is compatible)
Video Ram	512 MB Open GL Accelerator graphics adapter
Screen Size	15" Display or larger
Warranty	3 year AppleCare Protection Plan

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Virginia Tech University Bookstore

The University Bookstore provides hardware bundles from most all of the major computer vendors including Apple, Dell, HP, Toshiba, IBM, and Fujitsu.

The Bookstore negotiates these hardware bundles with the vendors yearly to provide the best pricing possible. The bundles include printers, cables and accessories as well as advanced service options.

These hardware bundles include Educational discounts that are not available in individual consumer purchases and can substantially lower the overall cost of purchasing and supporting a computer at Virginia Tech.



Mac Computer Requirements - Running MS Windows

For the School of Architecture, both Apple MacBooks as well as Microsoft Windows based computers are acceptable. If you plan to purchase a MacBook, please note that you will also want to investigate Apple's BootCamp software, or purchase a virtual machine software like Parallels or VMware's Fusion. These 3 options allow you to install and use Microsoft Windows on your Macintosh.

Boot Camp, Parallels, and VMWare Fusion are programs that assist users in installing Microsoft Windows XP or Windows Vista on Intel-based Macintosh computers.



Mac Computer Requirements - Running MS Windows

Boot Camp

Apple's Boot Camp software, included with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, lets you install and use Microsoft Windows and Windows-based applications on your Intel-based Mac.

Parallels

The desktop virtualization software for the Mac OS X platform which is revolutionizing the way people work and play by enabling users to have the best experience from both the Mac and PC worlds.

VMWare Fusion

VMWare Fusion is the easiest way to switch to Mac—letting you bring all of your Windows applications with you, making the most of your Windows software investment, while providing the perfect safety blanket for the switch.



VTnet 2009

VTnet 2009 is a software package written at Virginia Tech and distributed on CD-ROM and online. VTnet should be obtained and run on your computer before plugging into the network. VTnet automatically runs and performs the following functions for you:

- Helps obtain Internet access by configuring your Ethernet or modem.
- Helps secure your computer from computer hacks and viruses.
- Helps in configuring your e-mail client to use Virginia Tech.
- Provides a collection of software packages for current Virginia Tech students or for University owned computers.
- Checks for installed Anti-virus software and if not, installs Symantec Endpoint Protection.

Students can obtain computer support for hardware and software issues at the Customer Support Center (4Help) or at the VT Bookstore service center.



University Undergraduate Software Requirements

All incoming undergraduate students are required to purchase the Microsoft Campus Agreement bundle of software. This includes incoming freshmen and transfer students. This bundle contains Microsoft Office 2007 for Windows, Office 2008 for Macintosh, Windows operating system upgrades, and core client access licenses (CALs) for connecting to Microsoft servers. Unique to this Microsoft Campus Agreement license, purchasers are entitled to new versions of the software as long as they remain a student at Virginia Tech.

2009 Bundle Prices - \$99 + tax

- MS Windows OS (Vista Ultimate) with upgrade capability to latest version
- MS Client core CALS for connecting to campus MS Servers
- MS Office 2007 or MS Office 2008 for Mac



School of Architecture and Design Software Requirements

Software in addition to the University minimum requirement will be required for the first year design studios. This software must be purchased while enrolled at the University. It will be offered by the University at the lowest educational pricing that cannot be duplicated and will not be required until after the beginning of the fall semester. Please see the Student Software website for additional information on the School of Architecture + Design software bundle cost which changes each year depending on enrollment.

Estimated 2009 Bundle Prices - \$430 + tax

- Adobe CS4 Design
- Autodesk Student Edition



Landscape Architecture Software Requirements

Alternate to the School of Architecture Requirements, Landscape Architecture students will need to purchase the Landscape Architecture software bundle. This software must be purchased while enrolled at the University. It will be offered by the University at the lowest educational pricing that cannot be duplicated and will not be required until after the beginning of the fall semester. Please see the Student Software website for additional information on the Landscape Architecture software bundle cost which changes each year depending on enrollment.

Estimated 2009 Bundle Prices - \$440 + tax

- Adobe CS4 Design
- Autodesk Student Edition
- ESRI GIS software



Software Price Comparisons:

Software Title	MSRP	VT Cost
MS Windows Vista Ultimate	\$319.95	\$99
MS Office Professional 2007/2008	\$499.95	(included in above total)
Software Bundle - Adobe CS4 Design	\$1799.00	\$430/\$440
Totals	\$2,618.90	\$529/\$539

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School of Architecture and Design Printing Account

In addition to a Virginia Tech user account, the student must activate your SA+D printing account to access our Architecture computer labs. These input/output labs contain traditional laser printers, both black and white and color, large format inkjet plotters capable of prints up to 60" wide, medium sized flatbed scanners and access to wide format roll scanners, up to 36". An email at the start of the Fall Semester will provide instructions on how to activate this account as well as other useful printing information. This account gives you access to the following additional resources:

- Access to all student computers and input/output equipment provided by the School.
- Access to the Archweb Student Computing Intranet where they can view Computing Information.
- Unlimited use of black and white laser printers located in design studios (with your own paper supplies).
- A printing account with \$20 of large format or color prints from the output lab printers.
- Premium coated roll paper will be provided for use on the 36" and 24" wide roll format plotters.
- Use of school supplied digital projectors and photographic equipment.
- Use of the Lasercamm located in the shop area.

Students will be able to add funds to the printing account during the course of the semester. These funds will be applied to their University account.



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