System Recommendations Fall 2021

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
	GENERAL	**INTERMEDIATE**	**ADVANCED**
	Tier 1 is the minimum required for these majors:	Tier 2 is the minimum required for these majors:	*No majors will require Tier 3 systems, but they are listed to help direct students who seek a higher performance device.*
	» Communication Design » Critical + Cultural Practice » Illustration » Interaction Design » Photography » Visual Arts	» 2D + Experimental Animation » 3D Computer Animation » Industrial Design » Film + Screen Arts » New Media + Sound Arts	
2D Graphics + Design / Digital Photography + Print	✓ Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop	✓ Any	✓ Any
Audio + Video Editing	✓ iMovie	✓ Nuke, AfterEffects, Premiere, Pro Tools, Logic, Resolve & Fusion, Final Cut Pro	✓ Any
2D Animation + Compositing	✓ DragonFrame, TV Paint, Animate	✓ Harmony	✓ Any
3D Modeling + Animation	✗	✓ Maya, Zbrush, Mari, Substance Painter + Designer	✓ Any including MtoA, Redshift rendering
3D Lighting + Rendering	✗	✓ Maya (previews, limited rendering)	✓ Any
Interactivity	✓ Processing, Touch Designer	✓ Unity 3D	✓ Any including Oculus Rift, Vive Pro
Design for Digital Fabrication	✓ Tinkerine Suite	✓ Rhino, Modo	✓ Any including Solidworks, Modo rendering
VFX + Simulation	✗	✓ Maya (longer processing times)	✓ Any including Solidworks simulations

Example Products

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Apple (Laptop)	» Macbook Pro	» Macbook Pro	» Macbook Pro
Apple (Desktop)	» iMac » Mac Mini	» iMac Pro » M1 Chip iMac	» iMac Pro or M1 Chip iMac » Mac Pro
Windows (Laptop)	» Dell XPS	» Dell G-Series » New XPS 15 » Razer Blade	» Razer Blade » Dell Precision Mobile » Lenovo Thinkstation
Windows (Desktop)	» Dell Inspiron (All-in-One) » Dell Inpiron (Desktop)	» Dell XPS Tower » Dell G-Series Tower » Lenovo P-Series Tiny » HP Z-Series	» Dell Alienware » Dell Precision Towers » Lenovo P-Series » HP Z-Series

System Components

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Memory (RAM)	8–16 GB	16–32 GB	32 + GB or M1 Chip
Processor Type (CPU)	Intel i5 or i7	Intel i5, i7, or M1 Chip	Intel i7 or i9, Xeon, AMD Ryzen, M1 Chip
Processor Core Count	4-core	4-core+	8-core +
Processor Clock Speed (Base Frequency)	1.8 Ghz	3 Ghz	3.5 Ghz+ or M1 Chip
Graphics (GPU)	Intel HD, UHD, Iris or Iris Plus Integrated Graphics, AMD Embedded Graphics, or M1 CPU	Nvidia Quadro, Geforce GTX or RTX*, AMD Radeon, or M1 Chip	Nvidia Quadro or Geforce RTX, Quadro K or P Series*, AMD Radeon, or M1 Chip
Graphics Memory (VRAM)	n/a	4GB + VRAM, or M1 Chip	8GB + VRAM, or M1 Chip
Graphics Cuda Computer Score	n/a	3.0	6.0
System Storage (SSD)	256 GB	512 GB	1 TB
Project Storage	Cloud, Portable USB	Cloud, Portable USB	Internal HDD, Cloud, Portable USB
Display	built-in	1920 × 1080 or higher	Dual Monitor, 1920 × 1080 or higher
Peripherals (see program major for requirements)	pen tablet, webcam + mic	pen tablet or pen display, webcam + mic	pen tablet or pen diplay, webcam + mic
Internet	wifi or LAN connectivity	wifi or LAN connectivity	wifi or LAN connectivity