WMU Frostic School of Art
Graphic Design Required Computer Purchase

Upon admission into the Graphic Design Program, WMU students are required to purchase a Macintosh laptop computer and software necessary to complete the sequence of courses. The software will include programs for page layout, photo manipulation, drawing, web design, and the standard office package. The computer and software will be used in courses throughout the remainder of the degree program.

As of January 2016 the minimum approved computer is a 13-inch MacBook Pro with at least 4GB RAM, a 2.5GHz i5 processor, and a 500GB hard drive ($999.00)

It is also STRONGLY recommended that students purchase the upgraded three-year Apple computer warranty called AppleCare. Portable computers are subjected to more wear and tear than their more static desktop cousins. The upgraded warranty also includes three full years of free telephone technical support, which comes in very handy at 3am when students can’t get that paper to print that is due at 8am! The cost of AppleCare for a 13" MacBook Pro is $249 (15" MacBook Pro AppleCare is $349).

To purchase hardware, please contact the WMU Bookstore at (269) 387-3930

Or go to Apple's Mac in Education page.


The reference prices given are for products available through the University Bookstore (prices are for reference only and are subject to change).

Required Software

Adobe Creative Cloud ($249.95 for one year subscription)

The software may be purchased from WMU Bookstore

http://www.bkstr.com/westernmichiganstore/shop/technology/software

Note: Adobe Creative Cloud is currently installed on all Graphic Design lab computers, and there will be software upgrades for all lab computers in July of every academic year. All Graphic Design students are required to upgrade their design software on their laptops in order to stay consistent with versions of software installed on the lab computers and meet assignment requirements.

Additional Hardware Recommendations

An external hard drive or a cloud service (such as Dropbox) is essential for students to back up their work.

A 3-button mouse is also beneficial when working with 3D modeling programs.