



Students are required to purchase a laptop to complete assignments in and out of the classroom. Failure to meet the minimum requirements will result in the inability to successfully complete course work and therefore will result in the inability to successfully complete a diploma.

The laptop is required ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF CLASSES in every semester.

The software used in our program is very graphics intense and requires a laptop with a dedicated graphics card. We find a laptop with an Nvidia GeForce RTX 3060 6GB graphics card balances price and function with the software used in our program.

The following is a list of minimum requirements:

- CPU: Intel i7 – 10750H or higher
- RAM: 16GB
- **Video: Dedicated Nvidia Geforce RTX3060** or RTX2060(older model) or GTX 1660Ti graphics card
- Storage: 512GB SSD or larger
- Screen: 15.6 inches
- Resolution: 1920x1080
- WiFi: 802.11ac spec
- Bluetooth
- HDMI output port
- USB ports: 2 x USB 3.0 regular size
- Operating System: Windows 11 Home or Pro only.
- Input Device: **2 button Mouse w/ scroll wheel**

Additional Requirements:

- Method for Backup Storage of Files - 500GB or larger USB external hard drive or cloud storage such as OneDrive. (Microsoft® Office 365® and OneDrive® is free for all NAIT students)

Recommended but not required:

- A Portable USB Monitor. Approx. cost \$200.00

Notes from our Techs:

- Please use only SSD or M.2 storage technology for your boot/primary device as using a different storage technology will diminish your performance of your laptop.
- Windows Defender is the recommended anti-virus software. The installation of some 3rd party anti-virus and anti-malware packages might interfere with some of the applications you use for our course.

Software Requirements (these will be discussed in class) – DO NOT PURCHASE ANY OF THESE IN ADVANCE.

- Microsoft® Office 365® and OneDrive® - provided to all NAIT students for free, downloads are available through the NAIT Portal
- AutoCAD® software (student version) – provided for free, first day of AutoCAD® classes in the first semester
- Revit® – provided for free, first day of Revit® classes in the 2nd semester
- Latest version of Adobe® Creative Cloud® (includes Photoshop®, Illustrator®, InDesign®, and Acrobat Pro®) (available at reduced monthly student pricing to be discussed in class) 2nd semester (for LANT), 3rd semester (for INDT/ARCT) (approx. cost \$360.00 CAD per year)
- SketchUp® Pro (starting 2nd semester) - available at student pricing to be discussed in class (Approx. \$75.00 CAD per year)
- Enscape Software – Free student trial version (2nd semester)

The use of **Apple® laptops (Macs®) Will Not be Accepted and is not supported.** The software used in the programs (and in industry) is native to the Windows® PC platform. Experience in previous semesters has shown that Apple® laptops running Windows® have had incompatibility issues with some of the software used in the programs.

Notes:

- Students are responsible for the service and repair of their own computers
- NAIT takes no responsibility for hardware or software compliance

FAQ

1. Which brand or manufacturer of computers would you recommend?

Over the years our students have purchased many different brands and there seems to be no noticeable difference in reliability. Manufacturers use the same hardware so if the brand you purchase meets our minimum specs you should be good.

2. How much should I spend?

I would budget \$1500.00 - \$2500.00. The price will vary depending on brand and options.

3. Where do you recommend buying my computer?

For your convenience [[Shop at NAIT](#)] does sell the Dell G5-5590 which meets our requirements. Alternatively, I'd suggest Googling "Best computer stores in Edmonton" and they will give you recommendations.

4. Why do you recommend an Intel Core i7 processor over an AMD processor?

We recommend the intel i7 because it's commonly configured with the Nvidia graphics card and has been tested with the software we teach.

5. Why do you recommend an Nvidia graphics card over an AMD Radeon graphics card?

The software we teach has been tested with the Nvidia GTX 1060, GTX1660, GTX1660Ti and the RTX 2060 and RTX3060. The instructors are familiar with Nvidia and can provide some support to the students with driver updates, etc.

6. Why do you recommend the RTX3060?

We have tried to balance price, performance, and compatibility.

7. Will a GTX1650 work?

The GTX1650 is half the speed of the 1660Ti and is not recommended for rendering and video rendering.

8. Will a faster Nvidia graphics card with better specifications work?

Yes, but it's not required for the software we use.

9. What is the advantage of a portable monitor and why is it only recommended and not required?

This program utilizes various computer application that the graduates will use on the job, 2 monitors will allow the student to learn and practice these applications simultaneously.

If you have any questions, please contact:

sasttech@nait.ca