



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. A laptop with an Nvidia GeForce RTX 4050 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 – 12750H or higher
- **RAM: 16GB**
- **Video: Dedicated Nvidia Geforce RTX4050**
- Storage: 512GB SSD or larger
- Screen: 15.6 inches
- Resolution: 1920x1080
- WiFi
- 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)

Highly Recommended but not required:

- A Portable USB Monitor. Approx. cost \$200.00
This program utilizes various computer applications that the graduates will use on the job; 2 monitors will allow the student to learn and practice these applications simultaneously.

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 the 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 license) – free, installation instruction will be sent to students.
- Revit® software (student license) – free, installation instruction will be sent to students.
- 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 – Student, 1 year license available at reduced cost. (Approx. \$200.00) (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 the brand and options.

3. Where do you recommend buying my computer?

[Shop at NAIT](#) provides information on computer specs per programs and links to both the Dell website and to Memory Express website.

Note: These sites have computers for all NAIT programs, be sure to select one with the RTX4050 (or better) graphics card.

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 on the Nvidia RTX4050. The instructors are familiar with Nvidia and can provide some support to the students with driver updates, etc.

6. Why do you recommend the RTX4050?

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

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

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

8. Will an Intel Iris Xe graphics CPU work with all the software we use?

No, the rendering software we use will not run without a dedicated graphics card.

If you have any questions, please contact:

helpline@nait.ca

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