



VAMA Computer Recommendations

These are general recommendation based on our instructor's and professional experience. If you are not sure what to buy or want to wait, **don't worry!!** We have state of the art computers, tablets, and other computer accessories you will need to complete your degree or certificate (PCs and MACs) on campus that are available to you to use.

PC or MAC?

- Generally, photography, videography, audio, and graphic design tend to be Apple, but PC will work.
- Game development and animation tends to be PC, but Apple will work
 - Access to Apple OS for output to their devices.
- **PC or MAC will work**
 - Some industry standard software only works on one platform
 - Example: Logic Pro is only on Apple
 - Generally, 3D software is generally supported on PCs, a bit better.

Desktop or Laptop?

- Laptops are portable
- Desktops are more powerful at a better value
 - PC desktops are upgradable

Software

- Students receive Adobe license as RRCC VAMA students
- Microsoft 365 free for all students which include OneDrive Storage
- [See Specific classes for software used](#)
- Consider offsite back-up, for example, [Blackblaze](#) or [Carbonite](#)

Other

- **Look for deals**, locally and online
 - Locally: [Micro Center](#), [Best Buy](#), and [Action PC](#),
 - Online: [Newegg.com](#), [Macsales.com](#), [Amazon.com](#), [bhphotovideo.com](#), [Adorama.com](#), [iBUYPOWER.com](#)
 - Look for EDU pricing such as:
 - [Apple](#), [PhotoVideoEDU](#), [BHPhotoVideo](#), [journeyEd](#), [Adorama](#), [Studica](#)
 - Always ask for education pricing.
- Thumb Drives are slow! Purchase an external hard drive instead.
- Review Adobe recommended Requirements: <https://www.adobe.com/products/systemreqs/>
 - Research approved Video Cards for your program for GPU acceleration
 - (ie. Adobe Dimension)



Photography Majors:

MAC or PC (**No Chromebooks**)

Desktop Preferred

Apple

	Minimum Recommendations	Higher End Recommendations
CPU	Intel Core i5 6-core or better	None
RAM	16GB Memory	32GB memory
Storage	≈500GB (7200 RPM SATA)	≈512 GB SSD
Display	4k (laptop 1920x1200)	5k
GPU	4GB VRAM	8GB VRAM (with Video Cert)
Network Adaptor	Wifi	RJ-045 port
Webcam	Standard	None
Tablet	None	Wacom Intuos Pro S
External Drive	WD 1TB My Passport USB	1TB SSD Samsung T5
Connected Equipment	Surge Protector	Battery Backup

Windows

	Minimum Recommendations	Higher End Recommendations
CPU	Intel Core i7 or better	None
RAM	16GB Memory	32GB memory
Storage	≈500GB (7200 RPM SATA)	≈512 GB SSD
Display	1920x1200	4k
GPU	4GB VRAM	8GB VRAM (with Video Cert)
Network Adaptor	Wifi	RJ-045 port
Webcam	Any with microphone	Logitech C922 HD Pro
Tablet	None	Wacom Intuos Pro S
External Drive	WD 1TB My Passport USB	1TB SSD Samsung T5
Connected Power	Surge Protector	Battery Backup
Operating System	Windows 10 Home Edition	Windows 10 Pro Edition



Videography Majors:

MAC or PC (**No Chromebooks**)

Desktop Preferred

Apple

	Minimum Recommendations	Higher End Recommendations
CPU	Intel Core i7 9 th gen. 4-core	Intel Core i9 8-core
RAM	32GB Memory	64GB Memory
Storage	≈512 GB SSD	≈1 TB SSD
Display	4K	5k
GPU	4GB DDR5 RAM	Radeon Pro Vega 56 8GB HBM2 RAM
Network Adaptor	RJ-045 port	RJ-045 port
Webcam	Standard	
Tablet	None	None
External Drive	2TB SSD Samsung T5	Drobo 5D3 or other DAS
Connected Equipment	Surge Protector	Battery Backup

Windows

	Minimum Recommendations	Higher End Recommendations
CPU	Intel Core i7 9 th gen. 4-core or AMD Ryzen 7 8-core	Intel Core i9 8-core+ or AMD Ryzen 9 12-Core or better
RAM	16GB Memory	32GB Memory
Storage	500GB or 1 TB NVMe M.2 & 4GB+ HDD	1 TB NVMe M.2 PCI Express 4 SSD & 2 TB SSD
Display	4K	2 - 4K displays
GPU	4GB DDR6 VRAM	8 GB DDR6 VRAM
Network Adaptor	RJ-045 port	RJ-045 port
Webcam	Any with microphone	Logitech C922 HD Pro
Tablet	None	None
External Drive	2TB SSD Samsung T5	Drobo 5D3 or other DAS
Connected Power	Surge Protector	Battery Backup
Operating System	Windows 10 Home Edition	Windows 10 Pro Edition



Graphic Design Majors:

MAC or PC (No Chromebooks)

Desktop Preferred

Apple

	Minimum Recommendations	Higher End Recommendations
CPU	Intel Core i7 8 th Gen 4-core	Intel Core i7 10 th Gen 4 or 6-core
RAM	16GB DDR4 RAM	32GB DDR4 RAM
Storage	500GB SSD	1TB SSD
Display	4K Retina	5K
GPU	4GB DDR5 RAM Adobe Dimension minimum (8GB)	Radeon Pro Vega 56 8GB HBM2 RAM
Network Adaptor	Wifi	RJ-045 port
Webcam	Logitech C270 720p webcam	Logitech 922x 1080p webcam
Tablet	None	Wacom Intuos Drawing tablet small or medium
External Drive	1TB SSD Samsung T5	2TB SSD Samsung T5
Connected Equipment	Surge Protector	Battery Backup

Windows

	Minimum Recommendations	Higher End Recommendations
CPU	Intel Core i7 8 th Gen 4-core	Intel Core i7 10 th Gen 4 or 6-core
RAM	16GB DDR4 RAM	32GB DDR4 RAM
Storage	500GB SSD	1TB SSD
Display	HD 1080p	4K
GPU	nVidia GeForce GTX 1650 (1GB)	nVidia GeForce RTX 2060, or Quadro RTX 3000 (4GB)
Network Adaptor	Wifi	RJ-045 port
Webcam	Logitech C270 720p webcam	Logitech 922x 1080p webcam
Tablet	None	Wacom Intuos Drawing tablet small or medium
External Drive	1TB SSD Samsung T5	2TB SSD Samsung T5
Connected Power	Surge Protector	Battery Backup
Operating System	Windows 10 Home Edition	Windows 10 Pro Edition