Tulane School of Architecture Computer/Software Requirements and Support

In order to promote the robust integration of digital medium in the curriculum, Tulane School of Architecture (TSA) has a specification and procurement process of required computer hardware and software.

**INCOMING FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:**
Tulane School of Architecture does not require students to purchase a computer during their freshman year of Architecture School. Students will have access to TSA provided desktop computers during their first year as well as necessary programs to complete required work. Once students move on to second year, the following applies.

ALL undergraduate students who enroll in the 2nd Year Architecture Studio (ARCH2021) and graduate student enrolled in ARCH6011/6012 Summer Architecture Studio will receive a TSA standardized computer equipment package consisting of a desktop computer, a mouse, a keyboard and a monitor with security cables and locks specified by the school and procured through the University Technology Connection at the beginning of the semester. The equipment is your personal possession. You are responsible for computer maintenance during your studies at Tulane and the package will be yours to keep after the completion of your program.

The cost of the equipment package will be assessed as a course fee associated with the studio (ARCH2021 or ARCH6011/6012) and will be charged directly to the account receivables. The form factor and specification of the computer is chosen carefully to ensure the productivity (posture and visibility), software compatibility, longevity (to last the duration of your studies at TSA and beyond), and equitable access (approximately 30% less compared to a laptop with equivalent specifications).

The package will be delivered directly to the studio prior to the beginning of the fall semester (summer for the graduate students). You may keep your equipment in the your studio over the winter break. However, you must remove the entire package (computer, monitor, keyboard and security cables and locks) from the studio along with your other possessions at the end of spring semester. You are required to keep the packaging boxes (including the Styrofoam packing materials) so that you can ship the equipment back home during the summer break and ship them back the following academic year.

- **Applicable to rising 3rd, 4th, & 5th students who are enrolled as of AY 2018/19**
Students are strongly recommended, but not required, to procure the TSA standardized computer package. You may arrange to purchase the package through the university's Technology Connection (https://techconnect.tulane.edu/content/architecturecomputing). Additional transaction fees may apply.

Students with the TSA standard Computer Package will be supported with access to, Rhino and V-Ray software at the school. Students with personal laptops (without TSA standardized computer) who invest in a keyboard, mouse and a monitor (minimum spec: 24”/1080p or better) will be supported with access to Rhino and V-Ray software with a virtual PC accessible through their laptop while at school.

Contact Victor Garcia (vgarcia@tulane.edu) for details.
All Students will receive access to the Office365 suite through the University. All TSA students will be required to individually subscribe to Adobe Suites software until the university extends the subscription privilege to all Tulane students.

- True cost of the TSA standard Computer Package:
The cost of the package for the 2019-20 academic year is $2400. The savings is approximately 13% compared to directly procuring from Dell. The general specification of the computer and peripherals are shown below for your reference.

VR ready Dell Precision 3630 Workstation (Tower)
CPU: Intel Core i7-8700, 6 Core, 12MB Cache, 3.20GHz, 4.6Ghz, Turbo w/ HD Graphics 630
GPU: NVIDIA Quadro P2000, 5GB, 4 DP (extremely important to get a workstation grade GPU)
RAM: 32GB (2x16GB) 2666MHz DDR4 UDIMM Non-ECC
BOOT DRIVE: SSD M.2 256GB PCIe NVMe Class 40 Solid State Drive
SLAVE DRIVE: 3.5 inch 1TB 7200rpm SATA Hard Disk Drive
MONITOR: Dell UltraSharp 27 infinity edge Monitor - 1440P
SUPPORT: 7x24 Technical Support, 4 Years
WARRANTY: Next Business Day Onsite, 4 Years

Financial Aid
We will provide the roster of ARCH2021 and ARCH6011/6012 students to the University Financial Aid Office so that you can work with them if you wish to seek any additional aid to cover the course fee. Please note that generally any additional aid represents additional loan borrowing. If you are not eligible for financial aid, the course fee is due by the noted billing due date and subject to finance charges and holds.

Financial Hardship
If you are concerned that the course fee for the computer requirement will cause exceptional financial hardship, then please contact Emily Parsons, Director of Student Affairs. Working with the University Financial Aid Office, we will assist with the evaluation of a student’s need and ability to meet this financial obligation. Please note that during this review process you may be asked to submit additional documentation for further evaluation. The outcome of this evaluation will determine if the School of Architecture might be able to assist in providing equitable access to the needed equipment.

2019 TSA Policies Regarding Desktop Computers

The TSA standard Computer Package procured through the School of Architecture Computer Purchase Program is considered personal property. Neither the school nor the University will assume any responsibility or liability for these machines. Students are responsible for the safety, security, and maintenance of their computers.
In order to provide an environment where computers are reasonably safe and students have options for storage, Tulane School of Architecture will adhere to the following policies.

Damage & liability
The School of Architecture does not assume any liability for personal property. This includes theft, damage, or malfunction.
The TSA standard Computer Package includes a Tech Support 4 Year Next Business Day Onsite warranty. However, this warranty does not cover accidental damage like drops, spills, or broken monitors. Students can individually purchase Dell’s Accidental Damage Service by contacting Dell directly.
**Security**

**Cameras**-
The School of Architecture will install 10 security cameras throughout the building to record activity around the studios. Camera’s will be placed at building entry points, as well at the entry point of each studio. These cameras will not be monitored, footage will be reviewed as needed by TU PD.

**Door Locks**-
Each studio on the 3rd and 4th floors will be secured with a keypad lock at all times. Students will be provided with a code to use for entry and exit.

**Computer Locks**-
Locking cables are included in the TSA standard Computer Package and can be purchased separately from many retailers. TSA will provide under desk mounts at each studio desk to allow for locking and keeping your computer off the floor and worksurface.

**Summer storage**
If students wish to store their computers in Richardson Memorial Hall over the summer break, we will provide a storage space for this purpose. Students will be required to package their computers for storage and check them in by signing a Liability Waiver.

**Buy back program**
The School of Architecture understands that some students may wish to drop after their 2nd year, subsequent to the purchase of this machine. In order to accommodate drops during the second year, TSA will purchase the computer from the student at a rate of 75% of initial cost. For example, the current configuration (monitor, mouse, keyboard included) has a price of $2400, TSA will by the computer back for $1800. Computers purchased through this buy back program will be used as loaner desktops and to cycle out older TSA owned machines.