Wireless Laptops
Beginning in the Fall of 2011, all upper-division graphic design students will be required to own a laptop computer that meets the minimum system requirements (specified below). The cost of a wireless laptop will be automatically considered in the financial aid package offered to students. If you already have a laptop, and it doesn’t meet the specifications, you should upgrade your system.

All lower-division students (200 level), are strongly encouraged to consider purchasing a laptop, but it is not required for the sophomore year.

Why a laptop requirement?
Design classes do not meet in computer labs, and a laptop allows students to work in a classroom studio setting on projects. For projects which you may need a larger screen and particular software, such as video editing, there is the computing facility in Milne. A laptop is a smart investment for your college career in Graphic Design and other OSU classes.

Advantages of owning a wireless laptop and bringing it to class:
• ability to show work in progress to instructors/classmates and get feedback
• ability to access secured wireless internet network anywhere on OSU campus.
• ability to access OSU provided email, personal server space and course support platform ‘Blackboard’
• ability to work on projects in class (on and off the computer), while receiving direct feedback and guidance.
• review software tutorials in class with instructors
• research information for projects in/outside of class, access to OSU Libraries and services
• ease of connecting with peers (in/outside of OSU for collaborative projects (Skype, Blogs, etc)
• ease of participating in class critiques (Flickr/Facebook, Blogs) and presentations

Choosing a Laptop
Though we understand that you should choose a computer platform you are most comfortable with, we strongly encourage Macintosh laptops from Apple for the following reasons:

- Educational discount for students
- Ease of use and maintain including software installation/updates
- Automatic updating of system and security software from Apple
- Graphic Design faculty are design professionals and use to demonstrate and present to the class
- Access to mac platform fonts distributed for GD course use
- General preferred/expected platform in professional graphic design studios (internships, jobs)
- Mac OSX (operating system for the Mac) is the dominant-standard platform for design, illustration, publishing, photography, video, and animation
- Consistency of menu and keyboard functions within software applications
- Ease in setting up email(s) and email management using Apple Mail application
- Ability to run Windows natively using BootCamp (included with all Macintosh computers)
- Online support free and phone support for warranty duration
- Less vulnerable to computer viruses
- Mac OS X provides automated backup, so you will be less likely to lose valuable work
- Extended warranties (Applecare) with comprehensive coverage

Purchasing a Laptop
You should shop around for the best prices, the OSU Bookstore, has excellent student prices on both hardware and software. Apple computer has a online Educational Store for discounts for enrolled students.
Printing
The ONID printing system allows students on campus to print to selected printers on campus from your laptop. Like printer use in computer labs, there is a small variable fee (depending on page size) for prints. You will need to download and install the printer driver first, from http://www.hp.com. The directions here show how to connect to an ONID printer but remember to load the driver first.

Minimum Computer Specifications

System Requirements (Mac OS)

* Multicore Intel processor
* Mac OS X v10.5.8 or v10.6
* 1GB of RAM or more recommended
* 10.3GB of available hard-disk space for software installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on removable flash-based storage devices)
* 1280x800 display with qualified hardware-accelerated OpenGL graphics card, 16-bit color, and 256MB of VRAM
* Some GPU-accelerated features require graphics support for Shader Model 3.0 and OpenGL 2.0
* DVD-ROM drive compatible with dual-layer DVDs
* Java Runtime Environment 1.5 or 1.6
* QuickTime 7.6.2 software required for multimedia features
* Adobe Flash Player 10 software required to export SWF files
* Broadband Internet connection required for online services and to validate Subscription Edition (if applicable) on an ongoing basis

System Requirements (Windows)

* Intel® Pentium® 4 or AMD Athlon® 64 processor
* Microsoft® Windows® XP with Service Pack 3; Windows Vista® Home Premium, Business, Ultimate, or Enterprise with Service Pack 2; or Windows 7
* 1GB of RAM or more recommended
* 9.3GB of available hard-disk space for software installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on removable flash-based storage devices)
* 1280x800 display with qualified hardware-accelerated OpenGL graphics card, 16-bit color, and 256MB of VRAM
* Some GPU-accelerated features require graphics support for Shader Model 3.0 and OpenGL 2.0
* Some features in Adobe Bridge rely on a DirectX 9–capable graphics card with at least 64MB of VRAM
* DVD-ROM drive compatible with dual-layer DVDs
* Java™ Runtime Environment 1.5 (32 bit) or 1.6
* QuickTime 7.6.2 software required for multimedia features
* Adobe® Flash® Player 10 software required to export SWF files
* Broadband Internet connection required for online services and to validate Subscription Edition (if applicable) on an ongoing basis

• Required software packages
(for Graphic Design: Adobe Educational Software Package: Creative Suite (5.5) Design Premium, that includes: InDesign, Photoshop Illustrator, Acrobat, Bridge, Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks)

(for video production and animation: it is suggested you purchase latest versions Apple Final Cut Studio Pro and Adobe AfterEffects OR use the Milne Computer facility on campus for use of these programs).

Other Requirements
• Wireless networking based on 802.11g or 802.11n standards
• Extended warranty for technical support and authorized service
FAQ

I already have a desktop computer at home; do I still need to purchase a laptop computer?
In order to participate fully in courses that meet in our classrooms, you will need a laptop. If your current desktop computer is an older model, perhaps you should consider selling it or using it as an auxiliary system.

I just bought a new laptop computer, but it doesn’t meet the minimum requirements—what do I do?
Upgrading the system processor (CPU), the video system, or display of your laptop is usually not possible. However, a operating system upgrade, additional RAM and a larger hard drive may be able to compensate for a slower or less capable system. Talk to GD faculty before upgrading.

Should I buy a printer?
Purchasing and using your own printer is highly recommended for these reasons:
• You can print anytime without worrying whether lab printers are available, working well, or in demand by other users.
• You can choose exactly the type of printer that is best for your own work.
• You can control the costs of printing yourself, rather than relying on labs and print shops prices.
• You can still use campus computer labs to print

How long will this computer last me?
It’s difficult to say exactly how long a computer will last — mostly because you can tax the capabilities of your computer system more and more as you integrate it into your daily work. The recommended configurations are designed to last for a four-year stay on campus or to accompany you into your chosen profession after you complete your degree program. If in the future you expect to upgrade to the latest software or are going to use your computer for applications beyond its current capability, you may need to upgrade your hardware more frequently.

Where should I buy my computer? Does the university sell computers?
We strongly recommend that you purchase your new laptop from the OSU Bookstore, as they know exactly which systems fit the new requirements. However, You can purchase from any vendor you choose as long as the computer you buy meets or exceeds the minimum system specifications listed above in Minimum System Specifications.

Can I get financial aid to help purchase a computer?
Eligible financial aid recipients may receive an increase in the amount of their loan package that will help with a computer and software purchase.

When should I get my computer?
It’s your responsibility to ensure you have access to a computer by your first upper-division term. (Fall, Junior-level classes). We strongly encourage you consider purchasing a laptop once you are admitted to the graphic design program).

Can I borrow a computer from OSU?
No, the campus does not have a computer lending program. (although the OSU library has laptops available for students to sign-out, they are only for short term use and do not have applicable software needed to complete projects)

I have a laptop computer; where can I use it on campus?
There are many available network access ports in classrooms and labs in every building on campus. If you have a wireless-network card, there are wireless access points providing wireless access from most locations on campus.