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Dear New Students:

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Drexel University Architecture Program! We are all looking forward to your arrival on campus in just a few months. In this short letter, I would like to give you some important information about our computer requirements for incoming Architecture students.

Digital proficiency and digital self-sufficiency are core educational concepts of the Drexel University Architecture Program; therefore, we require that all incoming students obtain a mobile workstation (i.e. a *professional* laptop computer) and legally licensed CAD, presentation, and productivity software.

In recent years, the Architecture Program has recommended that incoming students purchase computers with appropriate specifications; however, students—whether by accident or design—arrived on campus with home, gaming or business laptops with processors, screens, and video cards that were not able to handle advanced 2d and 3d visualization. By the end of their first year in the Program, many students were understandably frustrated with an underperforming laptop purchased with the best of intentions.

To solve this problem, the Architecture Program will continue our recently revised hardware and software policy for the 2012-2013 academic year. All incoming Day Program students will be required to purchase a designated professional mobile workstation and an initial software package. The Architecture program has negotiated with an approved vendor, Dell Inc., to offer a specifically configured M6600 mobile workstation at a significantly reduced price for our students. Students and their families should purchase this required system at dell.com/Drexel (<http://www.dell.com/drexel>) before the start of the fall 2012 semester.

Although students will have access to all required 2d and 3d visualization software in our general instructional labs, architecture students should have these applications at their fingertips and on their workstations. The Architecture Program requires all students to purchase, at reduced educational pricing, the Adobe Creative Suite Design Standard and Rhinoceros. Students should purchase and install these software products before they arrive for the fall 2012 semester. In addition to these applications, students should also download free educational versions of Autodesk CAD and Digital Modeling software as registered Drexel architecture students. A complete list of required software and links to reduced educational pricing follows:

Digital Imaging Software

Adobe Creative Suite 6 Design Standard for Windows

<http://www.journeyed.com/item/Adobe/Creative+Suite+Design+Standard/1534626>

Advanced NURBs Modeling Software

Rhinoceros for Windows

<http://www.rhino3d.com/eduproducts.htm>

Advanced Computer Aided Design & Digital Modeling Software

Autodesk AutoCAD

Autodesk Revit Architecture

Autodesk 3ds Max Design

Obtain this free software through the [Autodesk Education Community](#)¹

<http://students.autodesk.com>

We also strongly recommend that incoming students purchase a sturdy cable lock to secure their mobile workstation to their studio desk. Please see the following link for a suggest vendor:

<http://us.kensington.com/html/17684.html#KeyedLocks>

We would like to assure you and your family that the Architecture Program and the studio faculty have developed these software and hardware requirements only after an extended discussion of our curriculum and the current expectations of design professionals and employers. We realize that meeting these requirements represents a significant investment for our students and their families. For this reason, we negotiated for the most economical professional solution for our students. Our requirements are based upon mid- to high-level architectural design use and represent a computer system that will meet future software needs, with an anticipated lifespan of four to six years for architectural design purposes, augmented by future memory upgrades.

The increasing role of digital technologies in the architectural discipline means that digital competency and self-sufficiency are of vital importance for the professional success of our students. As the digital workflow in our professional Program and in the discipline of architecture continues to increase, our 2012-13 computer requirements will empower our students and create a strong studio environment.

If you or your family has any questions about these requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you this fall.

Sincerely yours,



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¹ As soon as the student has a Drexel.edu email address, they can register for free to obtain and download the software. Visit the [Autodesk Education Community](#) and look for the "Register" or "Join the community today" links. Fill out the registration form using your drexel.edu email address. When creating a password, please pick a different one than your general Drexel password. After logging in with the new account info, go to the software download section to get Autodesk software for free.