PARSONS

Laptop Requirement: Technical Specifications and Guidelines

As artists and designers, you will be working in an increasingly digital landscape. The Parsons curriculum addresses this by making digital literacy a foundational component of first-year coursework. Parsons requires all new first-year students to have a laptop for in-class and at-home use related to their studies. The requirement ensures that all students share a consistent learning experience as they develop their digital skill set.

This document provides information about approved laptop models as well as a detailed list of minimum and recommended specifications.

All incoming first-year students will be required to check in their laptops for logging and verification. If you do not have a laptop that meets the minimum specifications, you will be expected to upgrade accordingly—this may involve purchasing new components to modify your configuration or purchasing a new laptop.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need a laptop that meets such high technical specifications?

— Your first-year courses require the use of Adobe software in the classroom, and, even at a minimum, these applications demands a high level of computer performance in order to function smoothly. Adobe also updates their products regularly, so your laptop should ideally be able to meet their specifications not only in the first year but for the entire four years.

Do I have to buy Adobe Creative Suite too?

— No. Please do *not* purchase any Adobe software. The university provides new students at Parsons with a full subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud, the latest software suite released by Adobe. (Creative Cloud is also installed throughout our campus computer labs.) Your Creative Cloud subscription will continue throughout your four years at Parsons, at no additional cost to you. You'll receive further instructions on how to download the software and access your subscription when you arrive on campus.

Can I use the laptop I already own for my classes?

— If you are considering using your current laptop to fulfill Parsons' requirement, you must ensure that it meets the minimum specifications. To assess this, check your hardware information against the Technical Specifications outlined in this document. Please note that the minimums listed there are true minimums necessary to run Creative Cloud. If your laptop does not meet these standards, you are expected to reconfigure it as needed or purchase a new one before classes begin.

Is there anything else I need to be prepared in terms of technology?

— Yes, as noted on the First-Year Core Materials List, you will need an external hard drive (500GB).

Are there any discounts available through Parsons and The New School?

— If you are interested in purchasing an Apple laptop, be sure to visit The New School's Apple Store for Education site, which provides a discount on Apple products. Other technology discounts available through The New School can be found on the Information Technology Deals page.

Approved Laptop Models

Macbook Pro
— *Memory: Must be configured to 8GB*
— *Storage: Must be configured to 512GB solid-state drive*
— *MSRP (with above configuration) $1,899.00*

Macbook Pro with Retina display, 13-inch, 2.6GHz
— *MSRP $1,799.00*

Macbook Pro with Retina display, 15-inch, 2.3GHz
— *MSRP $2,599.00*

IMPORTANT NOTES:
— MacBook Air models do not meet the required specifications.
— MacBook Pro models released before 2011 do not meet the required specifications.
— MacBook Pro models released in 2011/2012 may require upgrades to meet the required specifications.
— The AppleCare Protection Plan is highly recommended for anyone buying a new Mac laptop.

Toshiba Satellite S55t-A5277
— *MSRP $999.99*

Samsung ATIV Book 6
— *MSRP $1,099.99*

MSI G Series Notebook GT60 2OD-026US
— *MSRP $2,099.99*

IMPORTANT NOTES:
— If you purchase a new PC laptop, Parsons recommends purchasing it directly from the manufacturer to ensure that you can configure it to the required specifications.
— If you purchase your laptop from a third-party retailer (such as Best Buy or Newegg.com), ask specifically about the processor chip and graphics card to confirm that they meet the specifications; these components vary in quality depending on the manufacturer. Approved processor chips and graphics cards are listed on the following page.

Technical Specifications

	Mac		PC	
	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED
Processor	Intel Core i5 (generation 4) or Intel Core i7 (generation 3)	2.6 GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 or 2.0GHz quad-core Intel Core i7	Must comply with list of approved PC processors*	Must comply with list of approved PC processors*
Operating System	Mac OS X 10.7, 10.8, or 10.9	Mac OS X 10.7, 10.8, or 10.9	Windows 7 with Service Pack 1, Windows 8, or Windows 8.1	Windows 7 with Service Pack 1, Windows 8, or Windows 8.1
Display	13-inch screen	15-inch screen	12-inch screen	14- to 16-inch screen
Memory	8GB RAM	16GB RAM	8GB RAM	16GB RAM (or more)
Storage	256GB hard drive (7200 RPM), solid-state drive, or flash storage	512GB solid-state drive or flash storage	250GB hard drive (7200 RPM)	500GB solid-state drive
Graphics Card	Standard graphics card for Mac laptops released 2011 or later	Adobe-certified GPU card with 1GB of VRAM**	Must comply with approved list and have 1GB of VRAM*	Adobe-certified GPU card with 4GB of VRAM**
Components	USB 2 port Wireless connectivity	USB 3 port Ethernet port Wireless and Bluetooth connectivity Integrated webcam Media card reader	USB 2 port Wireless connectivity	USB 3 port Ethernet and Firewire ports Wireless (N/G/B) and Bluetooth connectivity Integrated webcam Media card reader

* Refer to Appendix A: Understanding PC Options
** Refer to Appendix B: Adobe-Certified GPU Cards

Appendix A
Understanding PC Options

IMPORTANT: If you are bringing a PC laptop to fulfill the first-year laptop requirement, *it must have one of the approved processors listed below*. If your processor is not on this list, your laptop will not be able to run Adobe Creative Cloud. See Technical Specifications for all other minimum/recommended specifications.

	GOOD PERFORMANCE	BETTER PERFORMANCE	BEST PERFORMANCE
Approved Processors	Intel Core i5-4670K (3.40GHz) Intel Core i7-3610QM (2.30GHz) Intel Core i5-3570K (3.40GHz) Intel Core i7-3632QM (2.20GHz) Intel Core i5-3570 (3.40GHz) Intel Core i7-3612QM (2.10GHz) AMD FX-8120 Eight-Core Intel Core i5-3470 (3.20GHz) Intel Core i5-3450 (3.10GHz) AMD FX-6300 Six-Core Intel Core i5-2500K (3.30GHz) Intel Core i5-2500 (3.30GHz) Intel Core i7-2670QM (2.20GHz) Intel Core i7 960 (3.20GHz) AMD Phenom II X6 1100T	Intel Core i7-3930K (3.20GHz) Intel Core i7-4770K (3.50GHz) Intel Core i7-4770 (3.40GHz) Intel Core i7-3770K (3.50GHz) Intel Core i7-3770 (3.40GHz) AMD FX-8350 Eight-Core Intel Core i7-3820 (3.60GHz) Intel Core i7-2700K (3.50GHz) Intel Core i7-2600K (3.40GHz) Intel Core i7-2600 (3.40GHz) AMD FX-8320 Eight-Core Intel Core i7-4700MQ (2.40GHz) Intel Core i7-3630QM (2.40GHz) AMD FX-8150 Eight-Core	Intel Core i5-3330 (3.00GHz) Intel Core i5-2400 (3.10GHz) AMD Phenom II X6 1090T Intel Core i7 950 (3.07GHz) Intel Core i5-2320 (3.00GHz) Intel Core i7-2630QM (2.00GHz) Intel Core i7 870 (2.93GHz) AMD FX-6100 Six-Core Intel Core i7 930 (2.80GHz) Intel Core i7 860 (2.80GHz) AMD Phenom II X6 1055T Intel Core i7 920 (2.67GHz) AMD A10-5800K APU Intel Core i7-3520M (2.90GHz) AMD Phenom II X4 965 Intel Core i3-3220 (3.30GHz) Intel Core2 Quad Q9550 (2.83GHz)
Storage	500GB hard drive (HDD)	500GB solid-state drive (SSD)	750GB (or more) HDD or SSD
Approved Graphics Cards	AMD FirePro V3900 (Open CL) AMD FirePro M4000 (Open CL) Quadro CX Quadro FX 3700M Quadro FX 3800 Quadro FX 3800M Quadro 5000M Quadro K2100M AMD FirePro M2000 (Open CL) AMD FirePro V4900 (Open CL) AMD FirePro V5900 (Open CL) AMD FirePro M5950 (Open CL) AMD FirePro M6000 (Open CL) AMD FirePro S7000 (Open CL) AMD FirePro S9000(Open CL) AMD FirePro W9000(Open CL) AMD FirePro S10000 (Open CL)	AMD FirePro W7900 (Open CL) AMD FirePro W8000 (Open CL) GeForce GT 650M GeForce GTX 285 Quadro FX4800 Quadro FX5800 Quadro 2000 Quadro 2000D Quadro 2000M Quadro 3000M Quadro 4000 Quadro 4000M Quadro 5010M Quadro K2100M AMD Radeon HD 7660 (Open CL)	GeForce GTX 470 GeForce GTX 570 GeForce GTX 580 GeForce GTX 675MX GeForce GTX 680 GeForce GTX 680MX GeForce GTX 690 GeForce GTX 770 GeForce GTX 780 Quadro 5000 Quadro 6000 AMD FirePro W5000 (Open CL) AMD FirePro W7000 (Open CL)
Graphics Memory	1GB VRAM	2GB–4GB VRAM	4GB–6GB VRAM

Appendix B
Adobe-Certified GPU Cards

Windows CUDA		Mac CUDA	Windows OpenCL		Mac OpenCL
GeForce GT 650M	Quadro K5000M	GeForce GTX 285	AMD Radeon HD 6650M	AMD Radeon HD 8670	ATI Radeon HD 6750M
GeForce GTX 285	Quadro K6000	GeForce GTX 675MX	AMD Radeon HD 6730M	AMD Radeon HD 8670M	ATI Radeon HD 6770M
GeForce GTX 470	Tesla C2050	GeForce GTX 680	AMD Radeon HD 6750	AMD Radeon HD 8690M	AMD Radeon HD 7950
GeForce GTX 570	Tesla C2070	GeForce GTX 680MX	AMD Radeon HD 6750M	AMD Radeon HD 8730M	GeForce GT 650M
GeForce GTX 580	Tesla C2075	GeForce GT 650M	AMD Radeon HD 6770	AMD Radeon HD 8740	GeForce GTX 675MX
GeForce GTX 675MX	Tesla M2050	Quadro CX	AMD Radeon HD 6770M	AMD Radeon HD 8750M	GeForce GTX 680
GeForce GTX 680	Tesla M2070	Quadro FX 4800	AMD Radeon HD 6950	AMD Radeon HD 8760	GeForce GTX 680MX
GeForce GTX 680MX	Tesla K10	Quadro 4000	AMD Radeon HD 6970	AMD Radeon HD 8770M	Quadro K5000
GeForce GTX 690		Quadro K5000	AMD Radeon HD 7510M	AMD Radeon HD 8790M	
GeForce GTX 770			AMD Radeon HD 7530M	AMD Radeon HD 8870	
GeForce GTX 780			AMD Radeon HD 7550M	AMD Radeon HD 8950	
Quadro CX			AMD Radeon HD 7570	AMD Radeon HD 8970	
Quadro FX 3700M			AMD Radeon HD 7570M	AMD Radeon HD 7480D	
Quadro FX 3800			AMD Radeon HD 7590M	AMD Radeon HD 7540D	
Quadro FX 3800M			AMD Radeon HD 7610M	AMD Radeon HD 7560D	
Quadro FX 4800			AMD Radeon HD 7630M	AMD Radeon HD 7660D	
Quadro FX 5800			AMD Radeon HD 7650M	AMD FirePro M2000	
Quadro 2000			AMD Radeon HD 7670	AMD FirePro V3900	
Quadro 2000D			AMD Radeon HD 7670M	AMD FirePro M4000	
Quadro 2000M			AMD Radeon HD 7690M	AMD FirePro V4900	
Quadro 3000M			AMD Radeon HD 7730M	AMD FirePro W5000	
Quadro 4000			AMD Radeon HD 7750	AMD FirePro V5900	
Quadro 4000M			AMD Radeon HD 7750M	AMD FirePro M5950	
Quadro 5000			AMD Radeon HD 7770	AMD FirePro M6000	
Quadro 5000M			AMD Radeon HD 7770M	AMD FirePro S7000	
Quadro 5010M			AMD Radeon HD 7850	AMD FirePro W7000	
Quadro 6000			AMD Radeon HD 7850M	AMD FirePro V7900	
Quadro K2000			AMD Radeon HD 7870	AMD FirePro W8000	
Quadro K2100M			AMD Radeon HD 7970M	AMD FirePro S9000	
Quadro K2000M			AMD Radeon HD 7950	AMD FirePro W9000	
Quadro K3000M			AMD Radeon HD 7970	AMD FirePro S10000	
Quadro K4000			AMD Radeon HD 8470		
Quadro K4100M			AMD Radeon HD 8550M		
Quadro K4000M			AMD Radeon HD 8570		
Quadro K5000			AMD Radeon HD 8570M		