USC Roski
School of Art and Design

Dear Roski Student:

Congratulations! Soon, you will be joining an elite community of artists and scholars in the center of Los Angeles.

As part of your preparation for attending the USC Roski School of Art and Design this coming fall, we are attaching a document describing Roski's technology requirements.   The computer is a necessary tool for the education of artists and designers: for research, communication, and creative production.   Digital literacy and technical fluency are key to succeeding in creative visual fields. Faculty make assignments based on the assumption that students have access to computers in the classroom and in the studio, and without this mandatory tool, it would be difficult for students to succeed in Roski's learning environment.

We are aware of the many technology choices available to students today and have carefully weighed the needs of the program against the costs and efficiencies of a number of options. After careful consideration and evaluation by all of our faculty and advisors, we have selected the laptops specified below. We have given both a minimum requirement for a basic laptop and an advanced laptop, depending on your program of study. Although the majority of Roski students use Apple computers, we have also included PC alternatives. If you already own a laptop that does not meet these requirements, please contact Roski Support at roskiit@usc.edu or 213.821.6578 to determine if there is an upgrade path.

If purchase of this equipment presents a financial hardship, there are a number of payment options open to you:

• If you have applied for and received financial aid, this computer package qualifies for inclusion in financial aid funding. Information on using financial aid to pay for required technology is available in the attached document;

• Apple offers favorable pay-over-time options;

• If you already own an older Apple laptop, it may be eligible for trade-in at the USC Bookstore, with any value applied to the new computer.

Because majority of courses, university wide, will use online and electronic resources rather than published textbooks, we anticipate at least some, and potentially substantial savings as compared to required textbook purchases for other majors.

Again, congratulations on your acceptance to the USC Roski School of Art and Design. We are excited to see you this fall. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to contact Roski for support.

Sincerely,

Hayk Avetisyan
USC Roski Technology Committee
IT Manager
USC Roski School of Art and Design

USC Roski School of Art and Design
2020-2021 STUDENT TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Computer Requirements

Minimum laptop requirements and specifications for Roski courses are as follows:

	Basic Laptop Minimum Requirements	Advanced Laptop Minimum Requirements
Areas of Concentration	Painting, Drawing, Ceramics, Sculpture, Printmaking	Intermedia, Photo, Design / Motion Graphics
Mac	Mac OS • MacBook Pro 13-inch Retina display • 3.1Ghz quad-core Intel Core i7 • 8GB 1600Mhz memory • 512GB PCIe-based flash storage • Intel Iris Pro Graphics • Apple Care Protection Plan	Mac OS • 15-inch Retina display • 2.5Ghz quad-core Intel Core i7 • 16GB 1600Mhz memory • 512GB PCIe-based flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce GT 750M with 2GB GDDR5 memory • Apple Care Protection Plan
Windows	Windows 8.1 Professional or Windows 10 Professional • 13-inch display • 2.3Ghz quad-core Intel Core i5 • 8GB 1600Mhz memory • 256GB PCIe-based SSD / flash storage • Intel HD Graphics 4600	Windows 8.1 Professional or Windows Windows 10 Professional • 15-inch display • 2.3Ghz quad-core Intel Core i7 • 16GB 1600Mhz memory • 512GB PCIe-based flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce GTX 860M with 2GB GDDR memory

Financial Aid

You or your parents may be able to apply for funding through one of more of the following loan programs to finance these purchases, regardless of whether you qualify for need-based aid.

- Federal Stafford Loan
- Federal Parent PLUS Loan
- Private financing programs

For details about how to apply for financial aid visit:
http://financialaid.usc.edu/undergraduates/admitted/students.html

For information about the above loan programs visit:
https://financialaid.usc.edu/loans/federal-direct-parent-plus-loan.html

You will also need to request a Cost of Attendance increase for the cost of these purchases.
For more information visit:
http://financialaid.usc.edu/undergraduates/prospective/special-circumstances.html

Financial aid counselors are available by phone, e-mail, or in person. For contact info visit:
http://www.usc.edu/contactfao

Where to Buy

https://www.uscbookstore.com/usc-roski-technology

Technology Support

Roski IT Services Provided:

If your laptop meets the minimum configuration requirements above, Roski IT staff are prepared to help you:

- Provide access to Adobe Creative Cloud subscription while you are a student at Roski.

- Provide support for all Roski course-required software

- Assist you with Roski lab / classroom equipment and peripheral use

Students are required to download USC free, site-licensed virus protection software.

Please note that laptops that are pre-configured to connect to other networks (such as your employer's network or home high-speed Internet services like DSL or cable) sometimes need to be reconfigured to connect with USC's network. Because of this, you must have administrative rights on your computer.

Roski IT Services NOT Provided:

- Internal or external hardware repair. Roski recommends that students purchase AppleCare Protection Plan for their MacBook Pro, a three-year extended warranty plan

- Application software support not related to Roski course-required software

- Backing up and restoring personal data, including photos, videos and music files

- Support for operating systems other than Windows 8, Windows 10 and Macintosh OS 10 or higher

- Virus, malware removal. You may contact ITS Customer Support Center for help with virus and malware removal

USC Customer Support Center

USC IT Services are on call to provide support for USC email, wireless networking, software downloads and password retrieval.

Student Use of Computing Resources

Students are required to familiarize themselves and abide by the policies regarding student use of computing resources at USC available at http://www-scf.usc.edu/Pages/ComputingPolicy.html

For Additional Information

If you have any questions about recommended hardware, please contact the Roski Support at roskiit@usc.edu or 213-821-6578.