LAPTOP INITIATIVE
2016/17 – 2017/18

AS A NEW AAC STUDENT, YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR FALL SEMESTER 2016.

OVERVIEW
The AAC maintains four instructional computer labs, but with the growing and widespread access to personal devices, the college is shifting to a new support model that will recommend all students provide their own device in the 2016/2017 academic year and will require this in 2017/18. To encourage students to participate now, The AAC will provide Adobe Creative Cloud subscriptions for all students. Creative Cloud includes almost all Adobe software including, but not limited to, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere, and others, as well as 100GB of cloud storage space and the ability to install on up to two different computers. Students will also be provided with a Microsoft Office 365 email account that includes the current Microsoft Office software suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook) as well as up to 1TB of OneDrive cloud storage space.

To participate you need to purchase your own Apple or Windows laptop. Recommendations and specifications for these computers are provided here. In addition, all three labs on the South 3rd floor are supplied with 15 computers for student use. The 5th floor lab contains a handful of Mac Minis, but starting in the Fall of 2016 will also have numerous purpose built stations for laptop use that include an external monitor and Ethernet connection.
MAC
Minimum
• MacBook Air
• 64-bit Intel processor
• OS X 10.7 or higher
• 4 GB of RAM
• 128 GB or higher of hard drive space
• 1024x768 display
• 512 MB of VRAM
• Internet connection

Recommended
• MacBook Pro
• Intel i5 or higher multicore processor
• OS X 10.10
• 8 GB of RAM or higher
• Solid State Drive (SSD)
• 256 GB - 1 TB of hard drive space
• 1280x800 or higher display
• 1 GB of VRAM
• Internet connection

WINDOWS
Minimum
• Intel Pentium 4 or AMD Athlon 64-bit pro
• Windows 7 w/Service Pack 1 or
• Windows 8 & 8.1
• 4 GB of RAM
• 10 GB of hard drive space
• 1024x768 display
• 512 MB of VRAM
• Internet connection

Recommended
• Intel i5 or higher multicore processor
• Windows 8.1
• 8 GB of RAM
• Solid State Drive (SSD)
• 20 GB of hard drive space
• 1280x800 or higher display
• 1 GB or more of VRAM
• Internet connection

VENDORS
Many vendors offer student discounts; be sure to check with them to see what is available. While your computer may be purchased at any location that suits your personal preference, here is a list of possible vendors.
MAC Vendors: Apple, SellYourMAC, Micro Center
Windows Vendors: Dell, HP, Lenovo, Toshiba, MicroCenter

Lower End/Used
Mac: $1200 for a good MacBook Air / Used models vary wildly but typically hover around $700-$800
PC: Usually around $500

High End
Mac: $2000 - $2500 MacBook Pro
PC: Models vary in price but expect to pay anywhere from $900 - $1500