

Required Equipment & Software Specification Comparison & Buying Tips

We require every participant to bring a laptop and hard drive with USB 3.0, Thunderbolt, or Firewire connection the workshop.

Use this guide to determine if your laptop is adequate for the course or to shop for a new device for digital editing.

To manage editing software, often many brands have laptops with a variety of features. Finding the right laptop for you is a combination of specific technical details and your comfort with the user interface.

For PCs or Mac laptops look at the following specifications:

For this course, either Mac or PC laptops are acceptable.

For Macs:

MacBook Pro models are the most competent for audio and video editing. The base model, **MacBook Air**, is not recommended because its processor and memory are insufficient for the amount of editing you will do in this course. You can upgrade to a model with more memory and a better processor, but it will approach the cost of a MacBook Pro at that point. Models older than 2013 may run slowly.

Processor:

Intel i7 is best; **i5** is fair.

Always try to buy the most current chipset.

Memory/RAM:

8GB of memory/RAM is the absolute minimum you will need to work with large amount of data and Adobe software.

This type of internal memory allows your computer to run multiple programs and keep several windows open at a time without crashing. It's important to have at least 8GB so that you can use media tools to create and change projects quickly. It also allows your system to have multiple computer processes happening at the same time (i.e., surfing the web and saving a photo edit).

Storage:

This type of memory stores your work for the long term, not just long enough for it to appear on your screen.

A solid state internal drive (SSD) with 256GB space should be fine, but an external drive that connects via USB 3.0/3.1 or Thunderbolt is recommended, as video files are quite large.


Graphics chip:

Any is better than none. Fewer and fewer laptops come with one, except at high prices. This component is responsible for the quality of the visual display (rendering) of your footage on your screen. For fine editing, it is important.

For PCs:

Lenovo and ASUS are good brands; however, all brands have a varied range of models and styles. Buying a PC laptop can be difficult, but in general, rely on the specs listed above (processor, memory/RAM, storage, and graphics chip), rather than model names and styles.

Looking at the XPS machines below, the first model is not robust for editing. The second is fair. The third will suit your needs for this class well, and the fourth will take you beyond the needs of this class.



Customizable

New XPS 13 Non-Touch
\$799.99

6th Generation Intel® Core™ i3 Processor


Windows 10 Home

4GB Memory

128GB Solid State Drive

Customizable

The XPS 13 is amazing both inside and out with the world's first InfinityEdge display. Includes the new 6th gen Intel® Core™ i3 processor and Windows 10 Home. Choose from options like the new 6th gen Intel® Core™ i5 processor and Windows 10 Pro.



Double the Memory

New XPS 13 Non-Touch
\$999.99

6th Generation Intel® Core™ i5 Processor


Windows 10 Home

8GB Memory

128GB Solid State Drive

Customizable

Upgraded with new 6th gen Intel® Core™ i5 processor and Windows 10 Home for enhanced performance. Choose from options like Windows 10 Pro, 256GB Solid State Drive and Quad HD+ InfinityEdge touch display.



Double the solid state storage

New XPS 13 Touch
\$1,399.99

6th Generation Intel® Core™ i5 Processor

Windows 10 Home


8GB Memory

256GB Solid State Drive

Touch Screen

Customizable

Upgrade to a larger hard drive and Quad HD+ InfinityEdge touch display for eye-popping detail. Choose from options like Windows 10 Pro, and 128GB Solid State Drive.



New 6th Gen Intel® Core™ i7

New XPS 13 Touch
\$1,599.99

6th Generation Intel® Core™ i7 Processor

Windows 10 Home

8GB Memory

256GB Solid State Drive

Touch Screen

Customizable

Upgrade to the new 6th gen Intel® Core™ i7 processor, Windows 10 Home and Quad HD+ InfinityEdge touch display for eye-popping detail. Choose from options like Windows 10 Pro.

Adobe Creative Cloud

Your laptop needs to be able to run Adobe Creative Cloud, and you'll be expected to have Premiere and Photoshop installed before the course begins. Adobe Creative Cloud is a subscription software with a monthly fee, but it comes with a free 7-day trial of each program that you can take advantage of.

<http://www.adobe.com/creativecloud.html>

External Hard Drive

You will need an external hard drive with at least 200GB of free space that can connect to your laptop via USB 3.0+, Thunderbolt, or Firewire.

USB 2.0 is too slow, and editing video will be very frustrating for you.

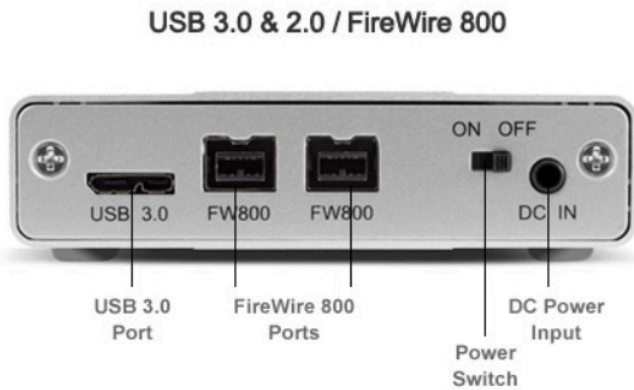
Hard Drive Connection Examples

USB 3.0



Thunderbolt





Stereo Headphones



During our interview exercise, you will be assigned video equipment in your small group. If you own your own video equipment and would like to use it for this course, please email us with the make & model information of your kit for approval.

Optional Equipment:

A DSLR camera, XLR video camera, tripod, and microphones will be provided for you, but if you have your own equipment and wish to use them in the course, you are welcome to bring them to practice.

Camera

A DSLR or other interchangeable lens camera (Sony, Nikon, Canon, Panasonic, Fuji, Samsung), or a high-quality point-and-shoot with the option to manually control shutter speed and aperture (like a Fuji X100 or higher-end Canon Powershot or Nikon Coolpix).

Video Camera

You can bring your own video camera if it can accept XLR cables for audio input.

Other optional equipment:

Tripod

Audio Recorder

Wired or wireless microphone with XLR cables