A Guide to the College of Architecture
Freshman Computer Initiative

1. Which computer and software packages are recommended for incoming freshman to the Sam Fox School?

The Sam Fox School recommends a MacBook Pro with compatible software, which is detailed on the reverse of this sheet. If you already possess a PC laptop, the desired specifications are also outlined on the reverse of this sheet.

2. Am I required to buy this computer/software as an incoming freshman in 2012?

No, you are only strongly encouraged to make the purchase this year.

3. Why should I buy the computer/software through the Sam Fox School?

There are financial benefits to you when you buy through the School because educational discounts and volume purchases offered to the School by Apple significantly lower the cost of the individual laptop purchase. There are also academic benefits, because the curriculum and teaching method is based on the attributes of the standard Apple laptop and the software package.

4. How much will the computer/software cost through the School? (And how much is saved over retail?)

Currently, we estimate the total price of the computer and software package to be $2,500 to $2,800. We will have a final price after June 15.

5. Does the Sam Fox School make a profit from my computer/software purchase?

No, the SFS does not make any profit from the purchase program. The financial benefit is all to the purchaser; the academic benefit is to the student and the faculty.

6. How do I sign up to purchase the recommended Sam Fox School computer/software?

Return the enclosed agreement form by email or hard mail before June 15, indicating your intention to purchase the Apple package and to be billed for the package on the Fall 2012 semester invoice.

7. How do I opt out of the program?

To opt out of the program, simply do not return the agreement form. If you return the agreement form, and later change your mind, you must do so by June 15 in order to avoid semester invoice charges.

8. What happens if I don't respond?

There is no penalty for not responding. We will assume that you will be making your own laptop purchase, or relying on the desktop computers in the School digital labs.

9. What is the deadline for ordering/purchasing a SFS computer?

The deadline for returning the purchase agreement form is June 15, 2012.

10. How will I pay for the computer/software?

If you choose to purchase through the Sam Fox School, you will be billed through your fall semester invoice.

11. What should I do if I can’t afford to purchase the SFS computer/software at this time?

You can chose to rely on the shared facilities available in the School; however, the School does not have individual laptops to loan to students. You are also encouraged to contact a counselor in Student Financial Services to discuss your options. Counselors can be reached at 314.935.5900, 888.547.6670, or financial@wustl.edu

12. Can I use the computer/software I already have instead of the Sam Fox School computer? Can I purchase a different computer/software package for use at the Sam Fox School?

Yes, but you will need to make sure that the computer you acquire matches as closely as possible the attributes of the MacBook Pro we specify and that it is loaded with the software programs we recommend.

13. When and how will I get my Sam Fox School computer?

The Apple packages will be delivered to the School’s Digital Technologies department and prepared/formatted for use. In the opening days of the semester, the Apple laptops will be distributed by the DT staff to those who have purchased them at a basic orientation session.

14. Will I receive training for my Sam Fox School computer?

Yes, there will be a basic orientation session to the laptop and its software upon distribution. Within the freshman architecture studio course, individual design assignments will further explore the potentials of the computer and the software.

15. Will this computer last for all four years at the Sam Fox School?

Possibly, but given the current rate of advances in technology, and the increasing demands of the architecture curriculum, it would be realistic to assume that a second, more powerful laptop or desktop will be necessary for advancement into the junior and senior years.
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Hardware: 15-inch MacBook Pro
- 2.0GHz Quad-core Intel Core i7
- 8GB 1333MHz DDR3 SDRAM – 2x4GB
- 500GB Serial ATA Drive @ 5400 rpm
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- MacBook Pro 15-inch Glossy Widescreen Display
- Backlit Keyboard (English) & User’s Guide
- Mini Display Port to VGA Adapter
- Accessory Kit
- Standard 3-year AppleCare Warranty

Software:
- Microsoft Office Suite
  - Word 2011
  - Excel 2011
  - Powerpoint 2011
  - Outlook 2011
- Adobe® Design and Web Premium
  - Photoshop Extended
  - Illustrator
  - InDesign
  - Acrobat X Pro for Creative Suite
  - Flash Professional
  - Dreamweaver
  - Fireworks
- Robert McNeel Rhino 4.0
- V-Ray for Rhino
- AutoCAD (free through student site)

2012 Hardware/Software Allowance $2,500 to $2,800*

*Computer hardware and software prices fluctuate regularly, and the School cannot accurately predict the total costs until after June 15, 2012. At this time, the School estimates the total cost of the package will range from $2,500 to $2,800.