



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Department of
Urban Planning

May 22, 2026

A laptop computer is recommended to ensure academic success in the Urban Planning degree.

A PC is recommended as a MAC will not work properly with the required software.

Here is what you will need:

- CPU/Processor: multicore. An i7 or higher (AMD Ryzen5) core processor is recommended for better performance.
- Memory/RAM: minimum 16 GB. 32 GB or more is strongly recommended for high-end usage.
- Storage: 1TB high speed solid-state drive NVME is recommended (a standard SSD can work but some software will operate slower).
- GPU: GPU with DirectX 12 support (feature level 12_0 OR LATER), and 4GB+ dedicated GPU VRAM (NVIDIA RTX 3050/4050 or better)
- Screen resolution: 1280 X 800 at 100% scaling, or 1920 X 1080 at 150% scaling; 8, 16, and 32-bit color all supported. A 1920×1080 display or higher is recommended. With 4k support
- Mouse: A 3-button, scroll-wheel mouse.
- External storage: A 1 TB passport ssd drive

A laptop with these specs will be around \$1,894.

A 3-button, scroll wheel mouse is around \$35.

The external hard drive costs around \$180.



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While the department does not recommend any one computer over another, we do want to provide concrete examples of computers that meet the requirements listed on page one. Prices are from February 2026.

- MSI Cyborg 14 A13VE-092US: Intel Core i7-13620H, 32GB DDR5 RAM, and a 1TB NVMe SSD. While its native display is FHD+, it is frequently paired with high-performance internals for external 4K workflows.
- MSI Creator Z16 HX Studio A13VFTA-046US: uses an Intel Core i9-13900HX (higher than i7) with 32GB RAM and an RTX 4060. It features a high-resolution QHD+ Golden Ratio display which is often preferred over standard 4K for its 16:10 workspace.
- HP Envy 16-h1000: Often found with model suffixes like 16-h1023dx, this series packs an i7-13700H, 32GB RAM, and an RTX 4060. Many configurations include a 2.8K or 4K OLED touchscreen.
- [MSI Cyborg 14 in 144Hz Gaming Laptop Intel Core i7-13620H \(\\$1,399.00\)](#)
- [MSI Summit Pro 16 16" Touchscreen Laptop \(\\$1,632.68\)](#)
- [HP Envy 16 Touchscreen Laptop, Intel Core i9 13900H, 32GB DDR5 RAM, 1TB SSD, NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4060, Windows 11 Home, Bundle with Cefesfy USBHUB \(\\$2,154.00\)](#)
- MSI Stealth A16 AI+ CA16A3H286: This "Aura Edition" style laptop features the AMD Ryzen 7 350 processor, 32GB RAM, and a 1TB SSD with RTX 4060 graphics and QHD+ 240Hz display.
- Lenovo Legion Pro 5 16ARX8: Specifically, the configurations with Ryzen 7 7745HX, 32GB RAM, and RTX 4060. While many models come with 16GB, the Pro 5 series includes 32GB "Custom" or "Studio" configurations.
- [MSI Stealth A16 AI+ \(\\$1,649.99\)](#)
- [Lenovo LOQ Gaming Laptop 15.6" FHD 144Hz AMD Ryzen 7 7435HS RTX \(\\$1,339.00\)](#)