

Computer Requirements

Recommendation for student computer purchase 2017

PLEASE CHECK SOFTWARE and GRAPHICS CARD SPECS BEFORE PURCHASING A SYSTEM

*Fall of 2017 our department will be using **Autocad 2017** and **Revit Architecture 2017** and **Solidworks 2017** so it would be advisable to purchase a pc that can handle the recommended system requirements to accommodate the 2018 SOFTWARE as the college updates software packages every year..*

Software Resource:

- Microsoft Office 360 (includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint) - Beware that many computers include Microsoft Works, which is not the same as Microsoft Office. Available from the <http://wisc.edu/wisc> or <http://www.microsoft.com/student/en/us/office/default.aspx>
- AutoDesk products (includes AutoCAD, Revit, Inventor, 3ds Max, more): Available FREE for students
<http://wisc.edu/wisc> or <http://students.autodesk.com>
- Carlson Software for Civil Technology <http://www.carlsonsw.com/?s=student+version>
- Solidworks for Mechanical Design
<http://store.solidworks.com/studentstore/default.php?comm>
[and=Step1 http://www.novedge.com/products/2928](http://www.novedge.com/products/2928)
- Tech Hall Constructor <http://www.cmhsoftware.com/>
- Adobe Creative Suite Design Premium (includes PhotoShop, Acrobat Pro, InDesign, more) is available at the <http://wisc.edu/wisc>
- Office for Mac available free through [NWTC](#) bookstore
- **Important NOTE:**
The College is in partnership with HP, Dell, and Apple computers and you can get educational discounts through the below web sites.

Software Requirement:

Revit System Requirement

<https://knowledge.autodesk.com/support/revit-products/learn-explore/caas/sfdarticles/sfdarticles/System-requirements-for-Autodesk-Revit-2018-products.html>

Autocad System Requirements

<https://knowledge.autodesk.com/support/autocad/learn-explore/caas/sfdarticles/sfdarticles/System-requirements-for-AutoCAD-2018.html>

Solidworks System Requirements

<https://www.solidworks.com/sw/support/SystemRequirements.html>

Solidworks Software for Education

<http://www.solidworks.com/sw/education/student-software-3d-mcad.htm>

****** Disable any Virus Protection and Firewall on your system before your Start ******

Step 1: REGISTER Autodesk Student Community

Once you have an e-mail address ending in "EDU" that proves to Autodesk you are a student, you can proceed to register with the Autodesk Education Community. Only after registering with the community will you be able to download & activate your free license of CAD software.

To register with the Autodesk Student Community, read & follow the following steps carefully:

1. Visit <http://students.autodesk.com>
2. Click the "Register" button on the top right of the page.
3. Fill out the form **NOTE: You Must Use your NWTC Email Address @mymail.nwtc.edu**
4. Click Submit when finished.
5. Check your NWTC-email account for an activation e-mail from Autodesk. Be sure to read the e-mail carefully
& click the activation link in it.
6. After clicking the activation link, you'll be taken back to the community site. Scroll to the very bottom & click the "Take me to the website!" button. Feel free to ignore everything in the middle of the page.

Congratulations! You're now the newest member of the Autodesk Student Community.

Step 2: DETERMINE Your Windows Version

Microsoft® Windows® 7 SP1 64-bit: Enterprise, Ultimate, Professional, or Home Premium
Microsoft Windows 8.1 64-bit: Enterprise, Pro, or Windows 8.1
Microsoft Windows 10 64-bit: Enterprise, or Pro

Step 3: DOWNLOAD Software

Now comes the fun part. Once you have registered with the community & know whether you have a 32- or 64-bit version of Windows, you can login to the community & download the software you want.

Take your time with the following steps. Read each step very carefully. Take note of where you get stuck so we can explain the step better if needed.

1. Visit: <http://students.autodesk.com>
2. **Login to the community**, if needed (click yellow "Login" button at top-right corner of site).
3. Click the **"Get Software"** item on the menu bar across the top of the site.
4. **Scroll through the list of programs** until you see the one you want to download.
5. **Click the drop-down box** (down-pointing arrow) under the product you want to see a list of versions available for it. Click the version you want relating to the 64- or 32-bit option as well as the correct language! (Example: "AutoCAD 2016(English) As soon as you click a product version, you will be taken to that version's download page.
6. **WRITE DOWN YOUR SERIAL NUMBER DETAILS** that appear at the top of the download page! Without these numbers, your software will only work as a 30-day trial!
7. Click the big **"Download"** button when ready to start the download.
8. The first time you download software, you will be asked to **install an Akamai downloader tool**. Please do so if prompted.
9. After clicking Download, a pop-up will appear with some useful information. Please read it carefully, then **click the small "X"** at the top-right corner of the small window.
10. You will see a blue progress bar showing the download status of your program. When finished, **the installer will launch automatically**.

If you have trouble completing the download, talk to NWTC CAD Tech Support.

Step 4: INSTALL Software

After downloading, you need to **"install"** the software before it will actually work. The install process varies depending on what program you're trying to install.

Eventually, we'll have more tips/guidance here for the install process, but most programs are pretty straight-forward.

After installation, **you MUST activate the software! Otherwise, it will just run as a 30-day trial instead of a 3 year license**

Step 5: ACTIVATE Software

When you download & install Autodesk products, they are automatically a 30-day trial until you activate your software. Only after successful activation will your software work for the full 3 year period.

The first time you launch the software, you will be prompted to **activate the product** identifying you to Autodesk as a student using the free community site.

Once again: Your Autodesk ID used to activate the products you download from the Student Community is the same as your Student Community username & password! **Please write it down in a safe place** since you will need it again in the future for activating other Autodesk products.

Step 6: EXPLORE the Community

The community has so much more to offer you than just free software. You can use it to find a job or connect with other students & faculty with which you share same interests or goals. You can also use it to get help with a problem you're having.

Once you get your software downloaded, installed, and activated, don't stop there! Keep logging back into the community every week to see what's new!

Important Note: The Autodesk Student Version software incorporates all the functionality of our professional licenses, but includes a print banner making the software inappropriate for professional, commercial, or for-profit purposes. Autodesk Student Version software may not be used in the classroom or lab for instructional purposes, or for commercial or for-profit purposes. Annual licenses of Autodesk student software are not eligible for product upgrade or transfer to a commercial license. [View print banner sample.](#)

Step 7: Enable Virus protection and Firewall

After installing all needed software don't forget to Enable Virus Protection and Firewall