Recording Arts Student Required Buy 2017-18

What's required? *
  • Apple 15” Macbook Pro Laptop
  • Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro 80 ohm Studio Headphones
  • G-Tech G-Drive ev Portable bus-powered 2.5” Professional Hard Drive
  • Avid Pro Tools 12 Software
  • iLok USB Software Authorization Device
  • Apple Pro Apps Bundle for Education (Logic Pro X, Final Cut Pro X, and more)
  • Nektar Impact LX25 25-key MIDI Controller Keyboard (not needed until second semester)
*(details on each item below)

Is there anything else I should purchase?
Headphone Amplifier or Audio Interface. There are lots of factors to consider when purchasing an Audio Interface, too many to discuss here in fact. We recommend any device made by Apogee or Universal Audio.

Is Financial Aid available for bundle purchase?
Yes. Because the computer bundle is a required purchase for course study, financial aid is available. Contact or visit the Financial Aid office for details on how to apply. http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/index.shtml

Where should I purchase these items?
The Apple Pro Apps Bundle should has to be purchased directly from Apple here: https://www.apple.com/us-hed/shop/product/BMGE2Z/A/pro-apps-bundle-for-education
All required items can be purchased at a retailer of your choice.

Can I buy any of these items used?
It is not recommended. As with anything in life, when you purchase a used product you are taking a risk. It is each students’ responsibility to be in class and prepared with the necessary working hardware and software.

Total Cost:
Total cost will vary depending on which options you choose. Be sure to take advantage of the EDU pricing when available as it will provide considerable savings. $2475 - $3100

Apple 15” Macbook Pro Laptop

Which Macbook Pro should I buy?
Recommended configuration:
15” Macbook Pro w/ Retina Display
2.8GHz Intel Core i7
512GB PCIe-based flash storage
16GB Memory
Radeon Pro 555 with 2GB memory - Graphics Card

Minimum configuration:
15” Macbook Pro manufactured within the past 2.5 years.
Thunderbolt equipped
i5 or i7 Intel processor
16 GB RAM

Where to Buy?
Apple provides an educational discount to all enrolled students. To receive this discount simply order from Apple (on-line or in-store) or any business that offers EDU pricing on Apple products. http://www.apple.com/us-hed/shop
The Chico State Wildcat Store also provides educational discounts on Apple products.

Should I purchase Apple Care?
Yes! It is highly recommended that you purchase Apple Care with your computer. All portable electronic devices are prone to faults and failures. Apple Care protects you from a possible expensive repair if something might happen to your computer.

How much RAM should I order?
A generous amount of RAM is necessary for the well function of a computer in the digital audio environment. Current Apple laptops do not have the ability for RAM upgrades after purchase. As such, one should purchase as much RAM as you can afford when ordering a new laptop.

Will a Macbook or Macbook Air be sufficient?
No. These devices do not have the computing power to handle the workload in our digital audio environment.

Will a 13” Macbook Pro work?
It’s possible, but generally speaking, no. The 13” laptops are designed for light-duty work and will quickly slow down with intensive audio DSP loads.

I bought a Macbook Pro 3 years ago, will this work?
It depends. There are many variables when configuring a computer. A low end computer purchased over three years ago will not be sufficient. A top-of-the-line, maxed-out configuration may have enough horsepower to successfully run current software. If you have any questions about whether your computer will work or not, email one of your Recording Arts instructors (Dann Sargent or Alek Palmersmith).
I already own an iMac, do I have to purchase a laptop?
Yes. You will need a laptop for in-class work.

Can I use a PC?
No.

Cost:
Variable depending on configuration option - $1850 - $2600. Financing available from Apple.

Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro 80 ohm Studio Headphones

What's special about these headphones?
Beyerdynamic is an industry leader in providing excellent studio headphones. The DT 770s are especially suited to provide an audio student with an "un-hyped" display of any sound source.

I already have a pair of “brand X” headphones. Do I need to purchase this model?
Yes. Headphones vary greatly in their ability to accurately reproduce sound. As a Recording Arts student, your greatest asset is your ability to listen and discern details in audio. As such, a pair of quality headphones is one of your most important investments.

Does the Impedance matter? Why 80 ohm?
Yes, and as a Recording Arts student, you will find out why. There are different DT 770 models, with different ohm ratings. It is recommended that you purchase the 80 ohm version as they are easier to drive. If you already own the 250 or 32 ohm version, you do not need to purchase the 80 ohm version.

I already own a pair of Beyerdynamic DT 880 or 990s. Do I have to purchase the 770 model?
No. Quality and consistency across DT models is very good. One of these other models will work.

Where to Buy?
These headphones can be purchased from a retailer of your choice. Look online at places such as Amazon to find the best deal. Amazon also sells a Headphone/Case bundle which is highly recommended. https://www.amazon.com/beyerdynamic-DT-770-Pro-ohm/dp/B0016MNAAI?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0

Will my earbuds work?
Ha, no.

Cost:
$140 - $190
G-Tech G-Drive ev Portable bus-powered 2.5” Professional Hard Drive

Why this G-Tech ev drive?
There are many factors when evaluating drive performance and reliability. This drive has been selected by the Recording Arts faculty to make sure each student has a drive that will perform up to the needs of the audio student. In addition, this particular drive interfaces seamlessly with the drive docking stations in all of the Recording Arts studios. This drive also comes with an excellent 3 year warranty.

I already have a “brand-X” drive. Do I need to purchase another drive?
Maybe. There are many factors to consider when evaluating a hard drive. In the consumer realm, price is often the determining factor. Unfortunately, you get what you pay for. An audio student and professional put considerable stress on hard drives and require performance most people don’t need. As such the Recording Arts program has the following requirements for portable hard drives: USB3 or Thunderbolt interface, 7200 rpm or SSD drive, manufactured by G-Tech or LaCie.

HDD or SSD?
An SSD drive will always outperform a standard spindle-based HDD. Unfortunately, that performance comes at a cost. If you choose to buy an HDD, it’s rotational speed must be 7200rpm. Anything slower will not perform well with multi-track audio projects.

Where to purchase?
This drive can be purchased from a retailer of your choice. Look online at places such as Amazon to find the best deal.

Cost:
$90 - $140

Avid Pro Tools 12

Do I have to upgrade to PT 12 if I already own a previous version?
Yes. Contact Avid for upgrade pricing.

Does Avid offer educational pricing?
Yes! When purchasing Pro Tools be sure to order the EDU product. Enrollment verification may be necessary. http://www.avid.com/pro-tools/pricing

When purchasing Pro Tools, which licensing option should I choose?
There are three licensing options for Pro Tools: monthly, yearly, & perpetual. While ultimately it is up to you as to which option you choose, we recommend the perpetual
license. Purchasing the perpetual license eliminates the possibility of your software becoming **unusable** if you forget to pay your monthly/yearly fee.

**Where should I purchase Pro Tools?**
Pro Tools can be purchased directly from Avid or from a reseller of your choice as the prices are the same everywhere. Wherever you choose to shop, be sure to purchase the EDU version.

**Cost:**
$198 (cost over 2 years w/ monthly sub.) - $299 (perpetual)

**iLok USB Software Authorization Device**

**What is an iLok and why do I need it?**
iLok is a device that holds authorization keys (licenses) and connects via the USB port to your computer. It is necessary to open and run the Pro Tools software. An accompanied iLok.com account is necessary for software authorizations.

**Where should I purchase an iLok?**
An iLok should be purchased in conjunction with the Pro Tools software. In some cases, when purchasing a boxed Perpetual license, an iLok will be provided.

**Cost:**
$49.95

**Apple Pro Apps Bundle for Education**

**What is this bundle?**
The Pro Apps Bundle is a collection of five industry-leading apps from Apple that deliver powerful creative tools for video editors and musicians including Logic Pro X, Final Cut Pro X, Motion, Compressor, and Mainstage.

**Where do I purchase?**
You will need to purchase directly from Apple.

**Do I need to purchase this bundle if I already own Logic Pro X?**
No

**Nektar Impact LX25 25-key MIDI Controller Keyboard**

**Why this MIDI keyboard?**
Understanding and programing MIDI is integral to the skill-set of a electronic composer
and engineer. This keyboard was chosen by the Recording Arts faculty for its lightweight, portability, and performance.

**I already own a MIDI controller keyboard, do I have to purchase this one as well?**

It depends. Please contact your Electronic Music faculty Prof. David Dvorin to find out whether your current controller will work.

**Where should I purchase this keyboard?**

This keyboard can be purchased from a retailer of your choice. Look online at retailers such as Sweetwater.com or Amazon.

**Cost:**

$99