Students enrolling in Buffalo State's Graphic Design or Digital Media Arts concentrations often benefit from owning their own computer. Having a laptop is ideal so that students can work at school, work, and home. Choosing a laptop is a careful weighing of different considerations and this page was written to help you navigate that.

When choosing a laptop, think of your purchase as if you are a music student buying an instrument or a cyclist choosing a bicycle. The more you enjoy riding your bike, the more likely you are to use it. Gaming laptops are better for Digital Media Arts as they have a discrete Graphics Processor Unit (GPU) that helps 3D animations and other complex graphics render faster. This allows your ideas to iterate faster and thus the quality of your work can mature faster. Ideal machines for DMA (as of 2022) have an Nvidia GPU that is a model 3050 or faster (sometimes referred to as the RTX 30 Series), have at least 16 Gigabytes of RAM, and a 1 Terabyte hard drive. Gaming laptops tend to have poor battery life because of their high-power consumption. Apple MacBooks, on the other hand, tend to be better-crafted machines that are more durable than gaming laptops, have a higher resell value, and have a great battery life, but are usually slower when rendering complex animations. Apple MacBooks tend to cost more than gaming laptops, especially when you compare their processing power. Apple has a history of spectacular customer service, where gaming laptop companies have a service record that is far spottier. Gaming laptops usually have options for upgrading RAM and hard drives, but MacBooks do not. Ultimately, laptop decisions are personal decisions , and we must live with the fact that there is no perfect machine or computer company, and whatever you buy now will be rendered inferior by next year's model. Lastly, avoid laptops with displays smaller than 15" as those displays are prohibitively small for design work.

Happy computing.

**Laptop Recommendations (updated Fall 2022)**

| Digital Media Arts | Graphic Design |
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| Lenovo 82JW (Nvidia 3050 or better, 16GB of RAM or better) | Macbook Pro 14" or 16" |
| Dell XPS 15" 9520 (Nvidia 3050 or better, 16GB of RAM or better) | Dell XPS 15" with Intel Iris Xe Graphics |
| HP Omen 16" (Nvidia 3050 or better, 16GB of RAM or better) | |
| Lenovo Legion 5 (Nvidia 3050 or better, 16GB of RAM or better) | |
| Alienware m15 (Nvidia 3050 or better, 16GB of RAM or better) | |

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| Razer Blade 15 (Nvidia 3050 or better, 16GB of RAM or better) | |