

### Do I need my own computer?

Many of our students find it valuable to have their own computer as it provides the most flexibility in terms of working environment. However, the NIC Comox Valley campus houses two computer labs in Raven 107 and 212, equipped with iMac workstations, all required program software and a scanner and printer that both in-person (CVS) and online (DLU) registered students are permitted to access.

#### Hours of operation:

Monday - Thursday: 1:00 - 9:00pm

Friday: 12:30 - 4:30pm

Saturday: 10:00 - 4:00

Sunday: no access

### Should I get a PC or a Mac?

Typically, a Mac is considered industry standard for the digital design and development industry. That said, you will not be at a disadvantage if you choose a Windows system instead. They both have strengths and weaknesses. [You can read about the pros and cons of each here.](#)

If you are enrolled in the Web and Mobile App Development Diploma, Advanced DIGITAL Design + Development Diploma - Development Stream or the Post-Graduate Diploma - Mobile Application Development Stream programs, you may be required to access a Mac to develop iOS applications in the second year of the program.

### What are the minimum specifications?

	WINDOWS	MAC
Processor	x86_64 CPU architecture; 2nd generation Intel Core or newer, or AMD CPU	ARM-based chips, or 2nd generation Intel Core with 64-bit support
Operating System	64-bit Microsoft® Windows® 8/10	MacOS® 10.14 (Mojave) or higher
RAM	8 GB RAM (16 GB or more recommended)	8 GB RAM (16 GB or more recommended)
Graphics Card	GPU with DirectX 12 support; 2 GB+ of GPU memory	GPU with Metal support; 2 GB+ of GPU memory
Monitor Resolution	1280 x 800 display at 100% UI scaling (1920X 1080 recommended)	1280 x 800 display at 100% UI scaling (1920X 1080 recommended)
Hard Disk Space	8 GB available hard-disk space	8 GB available hard-disk space

### Should I get a laptop or a desktop?

Either will work. Laptops provide mobility but have smaller screens. Desktops have larger screens but lack mobility. If you will be working on the iMacs in the lab while on campus and on your own computer at home, a desktop is probably the best option. If you want to work outside of the labs on campus, in a cafe, at home on the couch, then a laptop is the right choice. You can always buy a second monitor to make up for the limited screen size.

### What software / tools do I need?

Your courses use industry standard software and tools. Over the course of your study, you will be exposed to many interfaces in order to prepare you for immediate employment in the tech industry. This will be confusing at first, but

it won't take long for you to become adept at moving between tools. Each course will use its own set of industry standard tools, but for all of our programs, you will be required to access:

A student subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud

A subscription to LinkedIn Learning (free through [VIRL](#) - Vancouver Island Regional Library)

#### Do I need any specific hardware?

No specific hardware is required. Students enrolled in mobile development courses may find it helpful to have a mobile device, though this is not required. As well, some students prefer an ergonomic, wireless mouse or a drawing tablet but neither are required.