While Montserrat College of Art does not require students to have computers, we do recommend that students come to campus with one of the recommended laptops listed below. Laptops enable anytime, anywhere learning. Montserrat College of Art has complete wireless coverage in all the residences and academic buildings, allowing you to connect to the Internet from various locations. Bring your laptop to class, access your Canvas class sites and bring your computer home over break to keep up with friends and get a head start on next semester's classes. When you want help with your recommended laptop, it's easy to bring it to the Center for Technology Solutions for support.

Why purchase the recommended laptop?
   Easy—All the research has been done for you; just decide if you want a Windows or Mac based computer, and you are ready to place your order.

Should I purchase the recommended Apple/Macintosh or Windows laptop?
At Montserrat College of Art, we support both Windows and Apple/Mac operating systems. It is up to you to choose which one you wish to bring to Montserrat.

Some things to consider when picking which type of computer to bring:
   • The platform (Windows/Mac) you are more comfortable using.
   • Check with a professor in your major to see if they have recommendations.
   • Support options available to you
      o While here at Montserrat, you can get support for both Windows and Apple/Macintosh computers. However, you should consider your support options when you are home on break or if you travel with the computer. Depending on your situation, you may get better support if you purchase one platform over another.
   • All lab-based classes at Montserrat are taught using Apple computers which can provide familiarity when working on projects on your laptop.
      o Please note that most software we use in class is also available for Windows.

Recommended Laptops:

General Use / Basic Creative Cloud Use:
   Macintosh: 13” MacBook Pro
   Windows: ThinkPad X250

High Performance / Animation & Interactive Media Use:
   Macintosh: 15” MacBook Pro w/ Retina
   Windows: ThinkPad Yoga 15

To Browse:
   Apple Store for Education
   Lenovo Store for Education
Adobe Creative Cloud Software Montserrat College has initiated an enterprise licensing agreement with Adobe, which allows the institution to offer the full Creative Cloud Suite to students for free. After acceptance and enrollment to the college, the details necessary for acquiring the Suite will be provided to the student.

Purchasing Peripherals

These items are not required to begin classes at Montserrat, however an external Hard Drive is highly recommended for all concentrations to keep work backed up. Wacom Tablets and Digital Cameras are available for checkout on campus, although some students do prefer to have their own.

Hard Drive
While selecting which capacity would be best for you, consider the concentration you are looking to explore at Montserrat. Generally 500Gb – 1TB is enough for most students, if you are interested in Animation & Interactive Media, or Video production a 2TB drive is recommended.

Considerations when selecting a Hard Drive:
1. Capacity – How much data will it hold?
2. Transfer Rate – How fast can it move data?
4. Portability – Does the drive require an external power supply, or will it power directly off the connection to the computer? Is it a 3.5" or a 2.5" drive?

If you are unsure where to start, these drives are compact and portable; perfect for backup, and transferring files around campus; Western Digital My Passport Ultra drives have USB 3.0 connectivity and 500GB – 2TB capacity option. Available from Amazon, here.

Wacom Tablet
Wacom tablets are used in various digital classes. Tablets are not required, and can be checked out for use on campus. Students that are concentrating in a digital field may consider purchasing their own for convenience if that is their preferred / primary method of working.
- Intuos Pen – A great basic tablet with pressure sensitivity, customizable “ExpressKeys” and a portable sensibility. Available from Wacom, here.
- Intuos Pro Small – Includes more customizable keys, and a touch-sensitive work area that allows control beyond the pen. Available from Wacom, here.

Digital Camera
If you are a photo student thinking about purchasing a digital camera at please contact: Ron DiRito, Chair of the Photo/Video Department at ron.dirito@montserrat.edu

If you need any assistance or advice regarding college computers or peripherals, please feel free to contact Ari Grosvenor, ari.grosvenor@montserrat.edu ; 978.921.4242 x1286

Questions If you have general questions or want more information, please contact us at: CTS@montserrat.edu (include a call back number if you’d prefer to talk to someone in person)