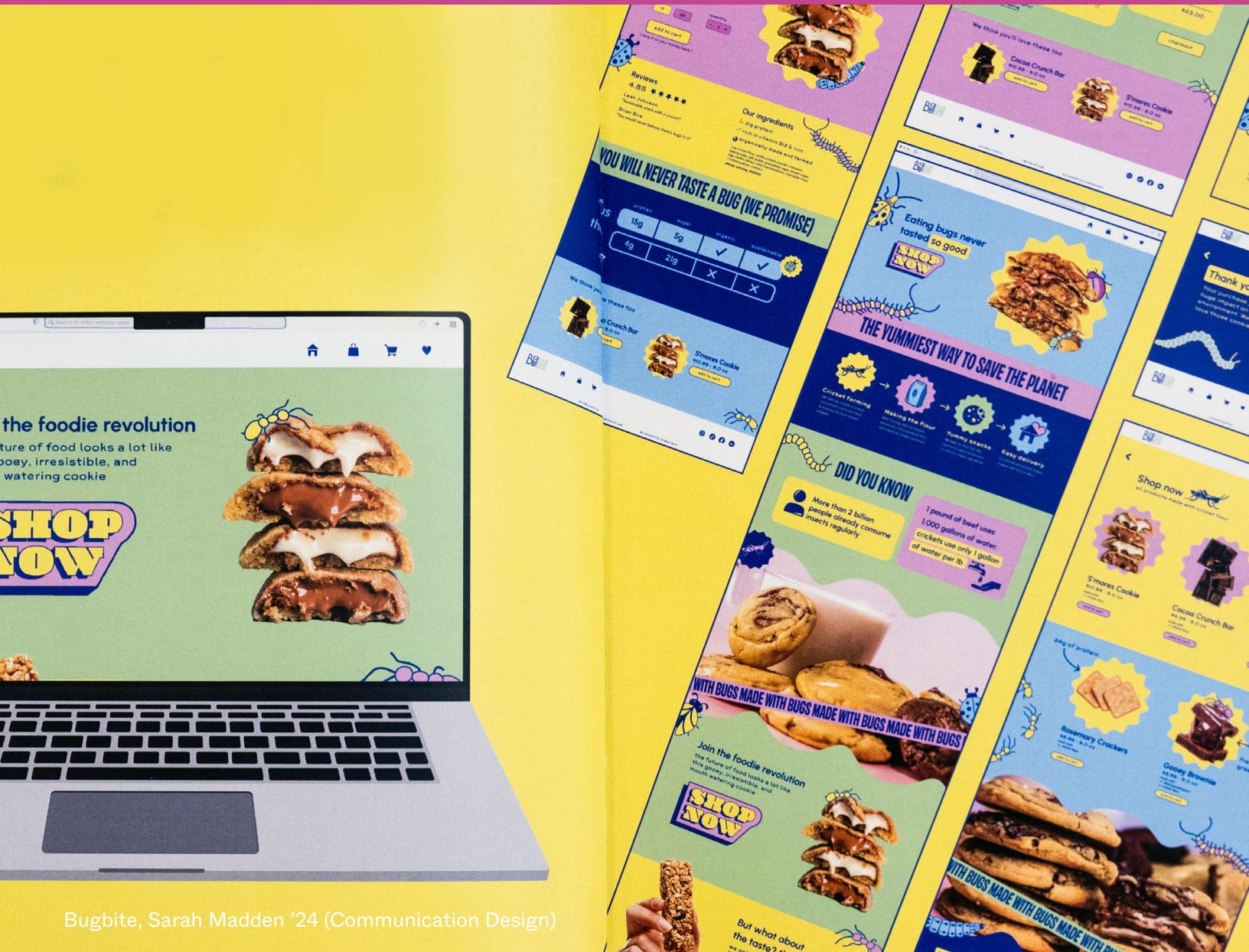


# 2025

# LAPTOP & TECHNOLOGY GUIDE



**Congratulations on your acceptance to MIAD!** As you prepare for the upcoming semester, it is important to consider the technology that will aid you in your creative pursuits. You have the freedom to bring the laptop of your choice to MIAD. We've created a guide with many of the frequently asked questions regarding laptops and technology at MIAD.

**Q. Do I need a laptop when I begin classes?**

A. Yes, all MIAD students are required to have a laptop at the start of the semester. Laptops are used for studio and liberal studies assignments, research, homework, email and general correspondence.

**Q. What software is commonly used at MIAD?**

A. First-Year Experience (FYE) students frequently use the Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere, Acrobat and more). This is the most important software your laptop should be able to handle. In addition, MIAD students use Microsoft (MS) Office Suite and other less taxing software. Some upper-level students may utilize additional software.

**NOTE:** All MIAD students receive the Adobe Creative Suite and MS Office Suite as part of the MIAD Technology Fee. Please **do not** purchase this software independently as MIAD contracts a discounted rate for students.

**Q. I'm planning to purchase a new laptop. What kind should I get?**

A. It's important to consider what your needs will be as an FYE student and your future major. This chart can help you to identify the best laptop for you as you enter college at MIAD.

MAJOR	LAPTOP	COST	PROS	CONS
Undecided, desiring a solid entry-level Apple machine	<a href="#"><u>Apple MacBook Pro 14"</u></a> Apple M4 chip with 10-core CPU, 10-core GPU, 512GB Storage	\$1,599+	Handles standard Adobe Applications and programs for First-Year Experience at MIAD  Three Thunderbolt 4 ports, HDMI port, SDXC card slot, headphone jack, MagSafe 3 port	Unable to run virtual software like Windows Bootcamp or specific Intel/AMD applications

\*Prices and specifications subject to change.

MAJOR	LAPTOP	COST	PROS	CONS
<b>Undecided,</b> desiring a solid entry-level PC machine PC Machine	<a href="#"><b>Precision 3590 Workstation</b></a> Intel core ultra 5 125H with 14 cores, 256GB Storage	\$1,339+	Has the flexibility to install applications from all majors and handle the demands of each major  Multiple inputs to connect to a variety of devices	Entry-level laptop may not handle 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR) software, or heavy rendering usage well
<b>Communication Design</b> (graphic design, advertising, etc.) Apple Machine	<a href="#"><b>Apple MacBook Pro 16"</b></a> Apple M4 Pro chip with 14-core CPU, 20-core GPU, 512GB SSD storage	\$2,499+	Can handle running Adobe applications  Ample Storage  Has additional graphics memory to better handle graphics-intensive applications	Unable to run virtual software like Windows Bootcamp or specific Intel/ AMD applications
<b>Communication Design</b> (graphic design, advertising, etc.) PC Machine	<a href="#"><b>Precision 3590 Workstation</b></a> Intel core ultra 5 125H with 14 cores, 256GB Storage	\$1,339+	Has the flexibility to install applications from all majors and handle the demands of each major  Multiple inputs to connect to a variety of devices	Entry-level laptop may not handle 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR) software, or heavy rendering usage well
<b>Fashion and Apparel Design</b> (making garments, understanding fabrics, creating patterns) PC Machine	<a href="#"><b>Precision 3590 Workstation</b></a> Intel core ultra 5 125H with 14 cores, 256GB Storage	\$1,339+	Has the flexibility to install applications from all majors and handle the demands of each major  Multiple inputs to connect to a variety of devices	Entry-level laptop may not handle 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR) software, or heavy rendering usage well

\*Prices and specifications subject to change.

MAJOR	LAPTOP	COST	PROS	CONS
<b>Fine Art + New Studio Practice</b> (not focused on computer-intensive 3D modeling, VR or video) Apple Machine	<a href="#"><b>Apple MacBook Pro 14"</b></a> Apple M4 chip with 10-core CPU, 10-core GPU, 512GB Storage	\$1,599+	Handles standard Adobe Applications and programs for First-Year Experience at MIAD  Three Thunderbolt 4 ports, HDMI port, SDXC card slot, headphone jack, MagSafe 3 port	Unable to run virtual software like Windows Bootcamp or specific Intel/AMD applications
<b>Illustration</b> (character development, graphic novels, editorial work, animation) Apple Machine	<a href="#"><b>Apple MacBook Pro 14"</b></a> Apple M4 chip with 10-core CPU, 10-core GPU, 512GB Storage	\$1,599+	Handles standard Adobe Applications and programs for First-Year Experience at MIAD  Three Thunderbolt 4 ports, HDMI port, SDXC card slot, headphone jack, MagSafe 3 port	Unable to run virtual software like Windows Bootcamp or specific Intel/AMD applications
<b>Illustration</b> (character development, graphic novels, editorial work, animation) PC Machine	<a href="#"><b>Precision 3590 Workstation</b></a> Intel core ultra 5 125H with 14 cores, 256GB Storage	\$1,399+	Has the flexibility to install applications from all majors and handle the demands of each major  Multiple inputs to connect to a variety of devices	Entry-level laptop may not handle 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR) software, or heavy rendering usage well
<b>Animation Track in Illustration</b> 3D modeling and animating, Virtual Reality (VR) programs PC Machine	<a href="#"><b>Precision 3590 Workstation</b></a> Intel core ultra 5 125H with 14 cores, 256GB Storage	\$1,399+	Has the flexibility to install applications from all majors and handle the demands of each major  Multiple inputs to connect to a variety of devices	Entry-level laptop may not handle 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR) software, or heavy rendering usage well

\*Prices and specifications subject to change.

MAJOR	LAPTOP	COST	PROS	CONS
<b>Interior Architecture and Design</b> (residential, office, retail, exhibition and healthcare design) PC Machine	<a href="#"><b>Precision 3590 Workstation</b></a> Intel core ultra 5 125H with 14 cores, 256GB Storage	\$1,339+	Has the flexibility to install applications from all majors and handle the demands of each major  Multiple inputs to connect to a variety of devices	Entry-level laptop may not handle 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR) software, or heavy rendering usage well
<b>Product Design</b> (making garments, understanding fabrics, creating patterns) PC Machine	<a href="#"><b>Precision 3590 Workstation</b></a> Intel core ultra 5 125H with 14 cores, 256GB Storage	\$1,339+	Has the flexibility to install applications from all majors and handle the demands of each major  Multiple inputs to connect to a variety of devices	Entry-level laptop may not handle 3D modeling, Virtual Reality (VR) software, or heavy rendering usage well

\*Prices and specifications subject to change.

## We're here to help!

If you have further technical questions, please contact:

**Technology Support**  
[support@miad.edu](mailto:support@miad.edu)

If you would like to discuss student/parent loan options to help finance a laptop, please contact:

**MIAD's Financial Aid Office**  
**414.847.3271**

\*Please note that MIAD does not receive compensation to make laptop or technology recommendations.



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