

General

While it is highly, highly recommended that students have access to their own computers from home to complete this course, it is possible to complete the course by using the Miracosta College Oceanside campus library computers. The library computing hours for the summer are 9am - 7pm (Monday-Thursday) and closed on normal holidays. The instructor cannot make any guarantees about availability. For more information, you can contact the Oceanside campus library or visit their webpage: http://www.miracosta.edu/instruction/ais/its/computerlabs_ocn.html.

Overview of system requirements

It is important to understand a few things when reading info on system requirements. When you look at software system requirements, you should note that some specs are intended to be dedicated to that specific application for it to run well. For instance, if Adobe states that Photoshop needs a minimum of 1GB of RAM but Microsoft states that Windows needs a minimum of 2GB of RAM, you should expect that you need a minimum of 3GB of RAM so that both can run concurrently without serious performance problems. You should also remember that our computers are also typically running other applications in the background, as well as others like MS Word or web browsers. So it would actually be ideal to have 4GB of RAM or more in this case for good performance.

This does not mean that if you only have 2GB of RAM that the applications won't work, but you will likely experience performance problems and some level of frustration.

In addition, you will also need either speakers or headphones to listen to instructional videos provided online through a web browser (Firefox, Internet Explorer, or Safari are recommended).

Note on free hard drive space

Adobe products use what is called "scratch disk" space, or virtual memory. Virtual memory is open, unwritten hard drive space that the application uses to write temporary files when system memory (RAM) is low. Therefore, it is important that your computer not only has the minimum amount of installation hard disk space, but it needs additional space for decent performance when writing temporary files. It is a good general rule to always keep a minimum of 10% of your hard drive space free. For example, if you have a 500GB hard drive, you should always keep at least 50GB of space free. If you are starting the class with less than 10% of free hard drive space, I recommend buying backup storage space on a server or an external hard drive.

That being said...Here are requirements.

Be sure to add the operating system requirements to the Photoshop requirements for RAM!

Windows 7 operating system minimum requirements:

- **Processor:** 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 32-bit (x86) or **64-bit (x64)**
- **RAM: 1 gigabyte (GB) RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit)**
- **Hard disk space:** 16 GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit)

Windows 8 operating system minimum requirements:

- **Processor:** 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster with support for PAE, NX, and SSE2 ([more info](#))
- **RAM: 1 gigabyte (GB) (32-bit) or 2 GB (64-bit)**
- **Hard disk space:** 16 GB (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit)

Mac operating system requirements

10.6.8

- Mac computer with an Intel processor
- **1GB of memory**
- 5GB of available disk space

10.7 - 10.8

- **2GB of memory**

- 8GB of available space

Photoshop system requirements

Windows

- Intel® Pentium® 4 or AMD Athlon® 64 processor
- Microsoft® Windows® XP with Service Pack 3 or Windows 7 with Service Pack 1. Adobe® Creative Suite® 5.5 and CS6 applications also support Windows 8. Refer to the CS6 FAQ for more information about Windows 8 support.*
- **1GB of RAM**
- 1GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on removable flash storage devices)
- 1024x768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit color and 256MB (512MB recommended) of VRAM

Mac OS

- Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support
- Mac OS X v10.6.8 or v10.7. Adobe Creative Suite 3, 4, 5, CS5.5, and CS6 applications support Mac OS X Mountain Lion (v10.8) when installed on Intel based systems.**
- **1GB of RAM**
- 2GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on removable flash storage devices)
- 1024x768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit color and 256MB (512MB recommended) of VRAM

* Some GPU-enabled features are not supported on Windows XP.

Photoshop Packages and MiraCosta Pricing Options

Creative Cloud subscriptions

Adobe is in the process of changing their licensing over to subscription-only, where the software will only work while you have an active paid subscription to their "Creative Cloud." This will be the only way to buy it in the near future.

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**Creative Cloud monthly subscription: \$29/mo**

- All Adobe applications

-- This subscription (Creative Cloud) provides access to all Adobe apps on a monthly basis. It is ideal for people trying to experiment with different apps without a huge financial commitment. You can also get a 30-day trial to get started while you decide on which commitment to make. This is a standard price for anyone, so you do not have to prove that you are a student first.

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Creative Cloud annual subscription: \$20/mo for students if signed up before July 31

- All Adobe applications

-- This subscription (Creative Cloud) provides access to all Adobe apps on an annual basis with monthly billing. You can also get a 30-day trial to get started while you decide on which commitment to make. This is through Adobe direct. Call 800-585-0774 for details. You will need to prove that you are a current student first, which can take about 2 business days. This would be ~\$240 for the year to access all Adobe applications. Prices will go up to \$29/month for the student annual plan after July 31.

Creative Suite stand-alone packages

The packages below MIGHT not be available by the time class begins because Adobe is moving to a subscription-only purchasing plan. But at this time the Creative Suite stand-alone software was still available at the time of this document's creation.

All prices are based on JourneyEd discounted educational pricing: <http://www.journeyed.com/fccc>

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**Photoshop Extended (stand-alone version): \$179**

- Adobe Photoshop CS6 Extended
- Adobe Bridge

-- This purchase is only for Photoshop Extended version and no other software except for Bridge. This is if you really don't expect to take other classes in web design or graphic design, or if you don't want to risk not having your software in time for class assignments.

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**Design and Web Premium: \$359**

- Adobe Photoshop CS6 Extended
- Adobe Illustrator CS6
- Adobe InDesign CS6
- Adobe Dreamweaver CS6
- Adobe Flash Professional CS6
- Adobe Fireworks CS6
- Adobe Acrobat X Pro
- Adobe Bridge CS6
- Adobe Media Encoder CS6

-- This purchase (Design and Web Premium) would be good for students expecting to take web and/or graphic design classes later. It is a huge cost savings.

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**Production Premium: \$359**

- Adobe Premiere Pro CS6
- Adobe After Effects CS6
- Adobe Photoshop CS6 Extended
- Adobe Audition CS6
- Adobe SpeedGrade CS6
- Adobe Prelude CS6
- Adobe Illustrator CS6
- Adobe Encore CS6
- Adobe Flash® Professional CS6
- Adobe Dynamic Link
- Adobe Media Encoder CS6
- mocha for After Effects CS6\*
- Adobe Story CS6
- Adobe Bridge CS6

-- This purchase (Production Premium) would be good for students expecting to take video production classes later. It is a huge cost savings.

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**Master Collection: \$599**

- Adobe Photoshop CS6 Extended
- Adobe Illustrator CS6
- Adobe InDesign CS6
- Adobe Acrobat® X Pro
- Adobe Flash® Professional CS6
- Adobe Flash Builder® 4.6 Premium
- Adobe Dreamweaver CS6
- Adobe Fireworks® CS6
- Adobe Premiere Pro CS6
- Adobe After Effects CS6
- Adobe Audition® CS6
- Adobe SpeedGrade™ CS6
- Adobe Prelude CS6
- Adobe Encore® CS6
- Adobe Bridge CS6
- mocha for After Effects CS6\*
- Adobe Story CS6
- Adobe Dynamic Link
- Adobe Media Encoder CS6

-- This purchase (Master Collection) is not really recommended for students at this level due to its high price. I would recommend trying Creative cloud first.

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## **NO MATTER WHAT....**

You will be expected to complete your assignments ON TIME regardless of where you order your software. I will not accept late shipments as a reason for not turning work in or completing projects. Please take this into consideration when you make your decisions.