

## **Bachelor of Communication Studies (Journalism Major)**

### **Laptop Recommendations**

Many of the higher end specifications in this document are geared towards broadcast students however this information will serve you well if you require a new laptop.

The Bachelor of Communication Studies in Journalism at Mount Royal University will require students to work with various types of media that will include photographs, video, audio and graphics. Depending on your program of study, the software you will be using will include the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite of Applications (Photoshop, Audition and Premiere), Avid (Media Composer and ProTools) and Blackmagic Design (DaVinci Resolve).

It is for this reason that we would like to recommend that all students within these programs consider purchasing a laptop computer that meets certain specifications in order to complete assignments on and off campus.

### **Why a Laptop?**

Having a sense of mobility as a Journalism professional is extremely important in order to get the job done in any setting or location. A laptop with the correct specifications will give you the flexibility you need to get your work done whether you are working at home, in a coffee shop or on campus.

### **Why are we recommending the Nvidia RTX Studio line of Laptops?**

Nvidia RTX Studio laptops are high performance systems loaded with the world's most powerful NVIDIA GeForce or Quadro RTX Graphics Cards and colour-accurate displays, all precision-engineered for creators to meet their demands for performance and reliability. By choosing laptops that bear the GeForce RTX Studio or Quadro RTX Studio badge, creators will easily be able to identify systems with the best out-of-box experience for them.

### **What are the requirements for an RTX Studio laptop or desktop?**

The base specifications are:

CPU: Intel Core i7 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> generation (H Series) or AMD Ryzen 7 or 9 (4000 and 5000 series), equivalent or higher

GPU: GeForce GTX 1660Ti, GeForce RTX 2060, TITAN RTX, Quadro RTX 3000, or higher

RAM: 16 GB or more

SSD: 512 GB or more

Display: 1080p up to 4K HDR

### **Which manufacturers are part of the RTX Studio program?**

RTX Studio partners include leading hardware manufacturers such as Acer, ASUS, Dell, Gigabyte, HP, Lenovo, MSI, and Razer. All partners and systems can be found [here](#).

### **What if I already have a laptop?**

If you already have a Windows laptop or a MacBook, MacBook Pro or MacBook Air with similar specifications to those contained in this document, then please get in contact with either Gareth Wentzel or Jason Kokot (whose contact details will be at the end of this document) to make sure that your current computer will meet the requirements needed.

### **What if I already own a MacBook/MacBook Pro?**

If you are an Apple Mac user and already own a MacBook/MacBook Pro, know that this will work for your purposes in the Journalism program. When in doubt, contact either Gareth Wentzel or Jason Kokot.

### **I am ready to purchase a Laptop but want to make sure I am purchasing the correct one for my needs, who can I talk to?**

Once you have read this document in its entirety and made a decision on the laptop you want to purchase, please contact Gareth Wentzel or Jason Kokot (whose contact details will be at the end of this document) if you want to confirm you are making the correct decision based on your needs.

### **I can't afford a laptop. What are my options?**

If we are on-campus, you will have access to desktop computers that can support your work. If working remotely, you should be able to also accomplish your work on a desktop computer. Through the pandemic, the library has also tried to make computers available to students in labs and as loaners.

**Minimum Specification requirements for Adobe programs (Premiere Pro, Photoshop and Audition):**

Hardware	Minimum Specifications required
Processor / CPU	Intel® 6 <sup>th</sup> Gen Core i5, i7 or i9 or newer CPU – or AMD equivalent (Ryzen 5, 7 or 9)
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 10 (64-bit) version 1803 or later
Memory / RAM	8 GB
GPU / Graphics Card	2 GB of GPU VRAM (For a list of recommended graphic cards, see Recommended graphics cards for Adobe Premiere Pro <a href="#">here</a> )
Hard Drive (disk space)	8 GB of available hard-disk space for installation (for each program); additional free space required during installation (will not install on removable flash storage)
Monitor Resolution	1280 x 800 pixels

**Minimum Laptop Specification for Blackmagic Design DaVinci Resolve:**

Hardware	Minimum Specifications required
Processor / CPU	Intel® 6 <sup>th</sup> Gen Core i7 or i9 or newer CPU – or AMD equivalent (Ryzen 7 or 9)
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 10 (64-bit)
Memory / RAM	16 GB
GPU / Graphics Card	4 GB of GPU VRAM
Hard Drive (disk space)	16 GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (will not install on removable flash storage)
Monitor Resolution	1920 x 1080 pixels

**Recommended Laptop Specifications (for RTX Studio Laptops):**

Hardware	Recommendations
Processor / CPU	<p><b>Mid to High End Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Core i7 or i9 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> generation mobile processors (Intel Core i7-10750H, Intel Core i7-10875H, Intel Core i9-10980HK)</li> <li>AMD Ryzen 9 4900HS or Ryzen 9 5900HS</li> </ul> <p><b>Basic Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Core i7 or i9 9<sup>th</sup> generation mobile processors (Intel Core i7-9750H, Intel Core i9-9880HK)</li> <li>Intel Core i5 9<sup>th</sup> generation mobile processors (Intel Core i5-9300H)</li> <li>AMD Ryzen 7 4800HS or Ryzen 7 5800H</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Recommended:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel Core i5, i7 or i9 8<sup>th</sup> generation or lower mobile processor</li> <li>Intel Core Core i3, Atom, Celeron series processors</li> <li>AMD Ryzen 3, 5 and 7 (2000 and 3000 series processors)</li> <li>AMD Athlon series processors</li> </ul> <p><b>Warning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid processors which have a “u” or a “y” at the end of their name such as AMD Ryzen 7 4800u or Intel Core i7-10710U or Intel Core i7-10510Y</li> </ul>
Memory / RAM	<p>Mid to High End Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32GB or higher</li> </ul> <p>Basic Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16GB</li> </ul> <p>Not Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8GB or lower</li> </ul>
GPU / Graphics Card	<p>You must choose a laptop with a dedicated GPU / Graphics Card. An Nvidia GPU / Graphics Card is recommended because they have been optimised using specific hardware and drivers for the software applications you will be using.</p> <p><b>High End Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nvidia GeForce RTX 2070 Max-Q with 8GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> <li>Nvidia GeForce RTX 2070 Super Max-Q with 8GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> <li>Nvidia GeForce RTX 3070 Max-Q with 8GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> <li>Nvidia GeForce RTX 2080 Max-Q with 8GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> <li>Nvidia GeForce RTX 2080 Super Max-Q with 8GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> <li>Nvidia GeForce RTX 3080 Max-Q with 8GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> <li>Nvidia Quadro RTX 3000 Mobile with 6GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nvidia Quadro RTX 5000 Mobile with 16GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> </ul> <p><b>Mid Range Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nvidia GeForce RTX 2060 Max –Q with 6GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> <li>NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3060 with 6GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> </ul> <p><b>Basic Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nvidia GeForce GTX 1660Ti Max-Q with 6GB GDDR6 Video Memory</li> </ul>
Hard Drive (HDD / SSD / m.2 SSD)	<p>You must choose a laptop with at least 512GB of storage.</p> <p><b>High End Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An m.2 internal Solid State Drive (SSD)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mid Range Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2.5 inch internal Solid State Drive (SSD)</li> </ul> <p><b>Basic Recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2.5 inch internal mechanical Hard Drive (HDD) that spins at a minimum of 7200 RPM.</li> </ul>
Display	<p><b>Screen Size:</b> Depending on your portability requirements you can get anything from 14 inches up to 17 inches.</p> <p><b>Screen Type:</b> It is highly recommended that you purchase a laptop with an IPS Panel for good viewing angles and accurate colour reproduction.</p> <p><b>Screen Resolution:</b> Minimum of 1080P (1920 x 1080 pixels). You could also opt for a 4K (UHD) display (3840 x 2160 pixels)</p>
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 10 (64-bit) version 1803 or later

### Laptop Recommendations:

Below are some laptop recommendations (from minimum requirements right through to high end machines). These are by no means the only ones you could buy.

### Minimum requirements laptop recommendations:

Please Note: You **MAY** need to utilize a proxy workflow for video editing in programs like Adobe Premiere Pro when using a machine that only meets the minimum system requirements of the software:

Laptop	Link
Acer Nitro 15.6" (AN515-55-59NW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel® Core™ i5-10300H</li> <li>512GB SSD</li> <li>8GB RAM</li> <li>GeForce 1650 (4GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>15 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Visions</a> <i>*Best value for the money in this range</i>
ASUS ROG Strix G15 (G512LI-BS52-CB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel® Core™ i5-10300H</li> <li>512GB SSD</li> <li>8GB RAM</li> <li>GeForce 1650Ti (4GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>15 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Best Buy</a>
Acer Nitro 15.6" (AN515-54-5812) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intel® Core™ i5-9300H</li> <li>256GB SSD</li> <li>8GB RAM</li> <li>GeForce 1650 (4GB GDDR5 VRAM)</li> <li>15 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Amazon</a>

**Entry level recommended RTX Studio laptop recommendations:**

Laptop	Link
ASUS ROG Zephyrus G14 (GA401IU-BS76) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMD Ryzen 7 4800HS</li> <li>• 512GB SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• GTX 1660Ti (6GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 14 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Best Buy</a>

**Mid Range recommended RTX Studio laptop recommendations:**

Laptop	Link
ASUS ROG Zephyrus G14 (GA401QM-BS91-CB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMD Ryzen 9 5900HS</li> <li>• 1TB m.2 SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• RTX 3060 (6GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 14 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Best Buy</a>
ASUS ROG Strix G17 (G713QM-BS71-CB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMD Ryzen 7 5800H</li> <li>• 1TB m.2 SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• RTX 3060 (6GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 17.3 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Best Buy</a>
ASUS ROG Zephyrus G15 (GA503QM-DS91-CA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMD Ryzen 9 5900HS</li> <li>• 1TB m.2 SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• RTX 3060 (6GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 15.6 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Memory Express</a>
ASUS TUF Dash F15 (TUF516PM-BS71-CB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel Core i7-11370H</li> <li>• 512GB SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• RTX 3060 (6GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 15.6 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Best Buy</a> <b>*Best value for the money in all ranges of suggested laptops</b>
ASUS TUF Dash F15 (TUF516PM-BS71-CB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel Core i7-11370H</li> <li>• 512GB SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• RTX 3070 (8GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 15.6 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Best Buy</a>
Gigabyte AORUS 15G (KC-8US2130SH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel Core i7-10870H</li> <li>• 512GB SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• RTX 3060 (6GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 15.6 inch IPS screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Memory Express</a>
Gigabyte AERO 15 OLED (KC-8US5130SP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel Core i7-10870H</li> <li>• 512GB SSD</li> <li>• 16GB RAM</li> <li>• RTX 3060 (6GB GDDR6 VRAM)</li> <li>• 15.6 inch UHD OLED screen</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Memory Express</a>

### External Hard Drive:

You will need to consider purchasing an external hard drive to work on your projects. The minimum specification for an external hard drive that will be used for any sort of Journalism Production is a 1TB drive with USB 3 connectivity. A USB-C SSD hard drive is more expensive but operates at much higher speeds and is great for working with high resolution video files (you will need a USB-C port on your laptop to completely utilize the increased speed of a USB-C hard drive. USB-C is backwards compatible with USB 3 when using the correct cable). Below are some recommendations:

### Entry to Mid-Range Level Hard Drive recommendations:

Hard Drive	Link
Seagate Expansion Portable 1TB External Hard Drive USB 3	<a href="#">Amazon</a>
Seagate Expansion Portable 2TB External Hard Drive USB 3	<a href="#">Amazon</a>
Western Digital 1TB Elements Portable External Hard Drive USB 3	<a href="#">Amazon</a>
Western Digital 2TB Elements Portable External Hard Drive USB 3	<a href="#">Amazon</a>
LaCie Rugged Mini 1TB External Hard Drive Portable HDD - USB 3.0	<a href="#">Amazon</a>
LaCie Rugged Mini 2TB External Hard Drive Portable HDD - USB 3.0	<a href="#">Amazon</a>

### High End Hard Drive recommendations:

Hard Drive	Link
Samsung Portable SSD T5 1TB USB C External SSD	<a href="#">Amazon</a>
G-Technology 500GB G-Drive Mobile SSD R-Series - USB-C connectivity	<a href="#">Amazon</a>
G-Technology 1TB G-Drive Mobile SSD R-Series - USB-C connectivity	<a href="#">Amazon</a>

### Do you need additional information?

If you have any questions about the purchase of a laptop, please contact either Gareth Wentzel or Jason Kokot.

If you already own a Windows laptop, or a MacBook, MacBook Pro or MacBook Air and want to confirm it meets the necessary requirements, please also contact either Gareth Wentzel or Jason Kokot.

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