Q1. I have noticed that sometimes my student’s major has “pre” in front of it (like pre-apparel design). What does that mean?
Q2. What is portfolio review?
Q3. What if my student does not pass portfolio?
Q4. What if my student does not get admitted into the architecture BDA or architecture BS program?

Q5. What if my student wants to change their major?
Q6. What is the difference between the architecture BDA and architecture BS programs?
Q7. What if my student wants to change their major?

Q8. Can my student pursue a double-major?
Q9. Does my student have to pursue a minor?
Q10. What minor do you recommend for my student’s major?
Q11. My student already knows which minor they want. How soon can they take classes in it?

Q12. My student completed many college credits during high school. Does that mean they will graduate in fewer than four years?
Q13. My student looked online for the classes that are listed on their four-year plan in Year 1, but all the classes show as “closed.” What will they be able to enroll in?
Q14. Can my student study abroad in their major?
Q15. Can my student study another language during college?
Q16. My student had an IEP (or 504 plan) in high school. Does that carry over into college?

Q17. What kind of laptop does my student need?
Q18. Are there computer labs on campus?
Q19. Does my student need a printer?
Q20. Is there an advantage to buying my student’s laptop from the University of Minnesota?

Q21. Does my student have to do an internship during college?
Q22. How does my student find an internship?
Q23. What kinds of jobs do graduates in my student’s major get?

Q24. Who will my student’s advisor be?
Q25. What does an advisor do?
Q26. May I contact my student’s advisor?
Q27. What do I do if my student is encountering problems?

Q28. Is it difficult to travel between the St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses?
Q29. My student is very shy, and I am concerned about them being on such a large campus. What should I do?
Q30. Is it feasible for my student to work while going to college?
My Student’s Major

Q1. I have noticed that sometimes my student’s major has “pre” in front of it (like pre-apparel design). What does that mean?

Regarding apparel design, graphic design, interior design, and product design: Students in these majors enter as a pre-major (e.g., pre-graphic design). Because design professions are competitive and demanding, students need to gain both design skills and knowledge of design concepts through their foundation-level courses, which they take as a pre-major.

Upon completion of those courses, they apply to what we call full-major status (e.g., graphic design). The application involves evaluation by faculty of students' design knowledge and skills to ensure they are ready for advanced coursework and their future career as a designer. The strong majority of students move into full-major status upon their first attempt.

Q2. What is portfolio review?

Regarding apparel design, graphic design, interior design, and product design: Portfolio review is the process by which students apply to move from pre-major to full-major status in these majors (see Q1).

Q3. What if my student does not pass portfolio?

Any student who does not pass portfolio review may go through the process a second time. Depending on the major, the second review will occur after the subsequent one or two semesters. In their notification email, faculty share with the student the specific areas they need to improve, and the student is encouraged to work closely with faculty to improve their skills and knowledge.

The student also works closely with their academic advisor to discuss options and possible next steps. Some students may decide to pursue a different major.

Q4. What if my student does not get admitted into the architecture BDA or architecture BS program?

If a student is not accepted to the Bachelor of Design in Architecture (BDA) or the Bachelor of Science (BS) program, they work closely with faculty to understand what they need to improve and how to do that.
My Student’s Major (continued)

Q5. What if my student wants to change their major?

It is not uncommon for students -- especially freshmen -- to consider other majors. Encourage your student to talk to their academic advisor before making changes or withdrawing from any classes. It is helpful for them to discuss what your student finds challenging or unsatisfying in their current major, what drew them to that major initially, and their thoughts and hopes for a different major. Sometimes we find that a student blames their major for their current dissatisfaction in college, but with a little digging, we may discover that other things in life are the issue.

For students who definitely want to change their major -- either to another major within the College of Design or to a different college within the U of M -- their academic advisor will provide them with guidance and resources until they are admitted into the major of their choice. Your student will never be without an academic advisor.

Q6. What is the difference between the architecture BDA and architecture BS programs?

The Bachelor of Design in Architecture (BDA) and the Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees both provide an excellent foundation for admission to a Master of Architecture (M. Arch) program, which is the professional degree required to become a licensed architect.

The BS is a more traditional degree program and involves a structured studio sequence, technology courses, and additional core requirements.

Alternatively, the BDA includes workshop studios that encompass a wide range of topics and interests. Students select the workshops that most appeal to and support their individual academic and career interests. This degree provides students both breadth of study and the ability to explore disciplines outside of architecture with significant flexibility.

Both programs require completion of pre-architecture coursework before applying.

Q7. What if my student wants to change their major?

This is not uncommon, especially for freshmen. Encourage your student to talk to their advisor -- both about what they find challenging or unsatisfying in their current major and about their desires for a new one. Sometimes a student "blames their major" when things are not going well, but with a little digging, we discover that other things in life are the issue.

For students who do want to change their majors -- either to another major within the College of Design or to a different college within the U of M -- their advisor will provide them with guidance and resources until they are admitted into the major of their choice. Your student will never be without an academic advisor (see Q24).
Q8. Can my student pursue a double-major?

Yes. Students may opt to pursue a double-major or a double-degree. However, it is possible that doing so could extend their graduation time. Variables in determining that include, for example, which College of Design major they are pursuing, which major or degree they want to add, and which degree requirements they have already fulfilled. Encourage your student to talk to their College of Design academic advisor.

Q9. Does my student have to pursue a minor?

No, students are not required to do a minor, but they are welcome to do so. Some students opt for more than one minor. Students in all majors can complete a minor, but some majors have less flexibility than others. Planning is key. Your student should talk to their academic advisor for planning assistance.

Q10. What minor do you recommend for my student’s major?

While some minors tend to be more commonly pursued with certain majors, there is really no “best” minor. Your student’s choice of minor is a reflection of their interests and goals, both academic and professional. This is a good conversation for your student to have with their academic advisor.

Q11. My student already knows which minor they want. How soon can they take classes in it?

That depends on the minor they want to pursue as well as on their major in the College of Design. Some minors require an application in order for the student to gain access to the required courses, while others do not. Your student’s academic advisor can guide them on where to find information and a contact person for the minor they are interested in.
Q12. My student completed many college credits during high school. Does that mean they will graduate in fewer than four years?

Depending on the courses for which your student earned credit, they may already have fulfilled some of their liberal education requirements (often called “generals” at other institutions). With very few exceptions, the courses available to high school students do not fulfill major-required courses. This means that for majors with a highly structured studio sequence -- apparel design, architecture BS, graphic design, interior design, and product design -- it takes four years for students to complete their degree.

Depending on the specific major and the specific liberal education requirements that your student has completed, they may be able to “free up” space in their four-year plan to take other courses, if they wish. Students often take advantage of this to pursue a minor (or two!) or a second major.

Q13. My student looked online for the classes that are listed on their four-year plan in Year 1, but all the classes show as “closed.” What will they be able to enroll in?

Not to worry! We hold the seats in our major-related foundation courses for our incoming students to ensure that they enroll in the courses needed for them to start on track toward timely graduation.

Q14. Can my student study abroad in their major?

Yes. The College of Design is a strong proponent of study abroad, and we have program options available for all our majors. See umabroad.umn.edu for more information.

Your student should work with both their academic advisor and the U’s Learning Abroad Center regarding their options and planning.

Q15. Can my student study another language during college?

Yes. The preparatory language courses often involve daily classes Monday - Friday. This means that scheduling may sometimes be tricky as students need to schedule around their required major courses. Encourage your student to talk with their academic advisor for guidance on incorporating language study into their degree plan.

Q16. My student had an IEP (or 504 plan) in high school. Does that carry over into college?

Your student’s accommodations in high school for a chronic physical and/or mental issue(s) do not automatically continue on when they enter the University. They need to contact the University’s Disability Resource Center (disability.umn.edu) to initiate the registration process. We highly encourage your student to begin this process over the summer so that any accommodations can be in place when the fall term begins.
Technology for Courses

Q17. What kind of laptop does my student need?

Please refer to our guide for computer hardware and software on the Parent Resource page (https://ote.umn.edu/parentor) as well as online at: z.umn.edu/cdescomputer. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff with questions or concerns. Their contact information is located on that document on the bottom of page two.

Interior design: Note that the laptop requirement does not come into effect until the student has passed portfolio review and becomes a full major (see Q1 & Q2).

Q18. Are there computer labs on campus?

Yes. In addition to general computer labs available across campus, we have our own labs in the College of Design that provide the specific design software your student will need.

For more information, visit: design.umn.edu/about/offices/it/labs/about.html

Q19. Does my student need a printer?

While not required, your student may want a printer readily available to them in their living space for smaller print jobs. College of Design computer labs offer high-quality printers and plotters.

For more information, see: https://design.umn.edu/about/offices/it/labs/printingplotting.html

Q20. Is there an advantage to buying my student's laptop from the University of Minnesota?

Yes. If your student is enrolled for fall classes in a major that requires a laptop (see Q17), your student will not have to pay sales tax. Your student will also then have the U of M Bookstore available as a resource if they need to address the warranty for any reason.
Career Preparation

Q21. Does my student have to do an internship during college?
Most College of Design degree programs include a required internship for which your student received academic credit. These are included on your student's four-year plan. These are normally done during your student's third year.

Q22. How does my student find an internship?
Career and Internship Services provides College of Design students with individual coaching on internship and job searches. They also offer career/internship preparation courses specifically geared toward your student's College of Design major. These courses are required for some majors and highly recommended for all!
Find more information at: www.careerhelp.umn.edu

Q23. What kinds of jobs do graduates in my student's major get?
Check out the “Career Info by Major” tab on the Career and Internship Services web site -- http://www.careerhelp.umn.edu -- to see examples of jobs that our recent graduates are working in.
Academic Advising

Q24. Who will my student’s advisor be?

During orientation, your student will work with the academic advising team and related colleagues to complete their registration for the upcoming semester. Your student will be assigned to an advisor after orientation.

Q25. What does an advisor do?

Academic advisors help students navigate their undergraduate experience from orientation through graduation. They teach students how to track their degree progress; discuss their academic, career, and personal goals and recommend relevant academic and co-curricular opportunities; and connect them to University resources.

Q26. May I contact my student’s advisor?

We encourage your student to seek assistance from and create a working relationship with their academic advisor. That said, we know there are times when you may need to talk to your student’s advisor directly. You are welcome to provide information to the advisor, but federal regulations known as FERPA restrict the information that the advisor may share with you without your student’s consent.

Should there be a situation that demands open communication, please feel free to contact your student’s advisor. They will guide you on next steps.

For more information on FERPA, visit: onestop.umn.edu/terms-and-conditions/student-records-privacy

Q27. What do I do if my student is encountering problems?

Encourage your student to talk to their academic advisor. Even if the problem does not seem like it would be in an academic advisor’s area of expertise, they are a safe and knowledgeable person to start with. Our advisors are very familiar with resources and staff across the campus, so if the advisor does not know the answer to your student’s question, they will know who your student needs to talk to.
**Student Experience**

**Q28. Is it difficult to travel between the St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses?**

Not at all! The Campus Connector is a free bus that circulates from West Bank to East Bank to St. Paul every 5-10 minutes each day. There is even an app to let your student know when the next bus will arrive at their stop.

Find more information at: https://www.pts.umn.edu/bus/campus-connectors

**Q29. My student is very shy, and I am concerned about them being on such a large campus. What should I do?**

Finding just one person with a shared interest can begin to shrink this large university. Encourage your student to get involved on campus. Some ideas for your student include:

- Join a student group (sua.umn.edu/get-involved/student-groups): There are nearly 1,000 student groups on campus, so it is very likely your student will find one that matches their interests
- Join a student organization related to their major: design.umn.edu/students/beyond/student_orgs.html
- Find a campus job: humanresources.umn.edu/student-jobs/find-student-job
- Volunteer on campus or in the community: ccel.umn.edu/volunteer

**Q30. Is it feasible for my student to work while going to college?**

Yes. We recommend that students work no more than 10-15 hours per week so that they have enough time for their schoolwork. We encourage students to look for a job on campus, as that offers many benefits:

- A wider U of M community created by meeting the students, staff, and faculty who work in that department
- Reduced commute time
- The possibility to utilize work/study funds as part of their financial aid award

Find more information at: humanresources.umn.edu/student-jobs/find-student-job
## Collegiate Computer Recommendations Hardware Minimum Specs

These recommendations are for technology needs for all first year students in the College of Design.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PC</th>
<th>Mac</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laptop</strong></td>
<td>Dell G5 with Windows 10 (64 bit)</td>
<td>MacBook Pro with OSX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Screen Size</strong></td>
<td>15.6” Display</td>
<td>16” Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processor</strong></td>
<td>8th Generation Intel 6 Core i7</td>
<td>2.6 GHz 6-Core 9th gen i7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Memory (RAM)</strong></td>
<td>16GB DDR4</td>
<td>16GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard Drive</strong></td>
<td>512GB Solid-state Drive</td>
<td>512GB Solid-state Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graphics Card</strong></td>
<td>NVIDIA Video card with 6GB RAM</td>
<td>AMD Radeon Pro 5300M w/ 4GB of GDDR6 memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Price &amp; Location</strong></td>
<td>UMN Bookstore – $1594</td>
<td>UMN Bookstore – $2199.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax</strong></td>
<td>Students in an academic program that requires a laptop may purchase it tax-free from the UMN Bookstore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Warranty</strong></td>
<td>Includes ProSupport Plus:</td>
<td>3-yr (or longer) warranty including accidental damage protection. Available at the UMN Bookstore for $249 or $299 for the upgraded Mac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Accidental Damage Service (4-yr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Keep Your Hard Drive (4-yr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Next Business Day Onsite (1-yr)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Next Business Day Onsite (3-yr ext)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 7x24 Technical Support (4-yr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessories</strong></td>
<td>• Security Cable (please note that this is not compatible with all Mac models)</td>
<td>• Data backup to either external hard drive or cloud storage solution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**For Architecture (BS, BDA)**

2.6 GHz 6-Core Intel i7
Radeon Pro 560X with 4 GB Memory
512 GB Solid-state Drive
Computer Requirements for Specific Academic Programs

The following academic programs require admitted students to purchase a laptop. Programs not listed below do not require a laptop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Architecture &amp; Architecture (BS, BDA)</th>
<th>Interior Design</th>
<th>Pre-Graphic Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PC (Highly recommended) or Mac*</td>
<td>• PC or Mac*</td>
<td>• Mac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adobe Creative Cloud</td>
<td>• Adobe Creative Cloud</td>
<td>• Adobe Creative Cloud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Microsoft Office</td>
<td>• Microsoft Office</td>
<td>• Adobe Creative Cloud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rhinoceros 6</td>
<td><strong>Recommended</strong></td>
<td>• Microsoft Office</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Revit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 32 GB USB Drive</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Students enrolling in ARCH 3611 are required to purchase or install free EDU or trial license**
• AutoCAD 2019 (Purchase or free EDU license)
• Rhino 6 (Purchase or free 90 day trial)
• Enscape 3D
• 3-Button Mouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-A Apparel Design</th>
<th>Pre-Product Design</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PC or Mac*</td>
<td>• PC or Mac*</td>
<td><strong>See section below “Considerations When Using a Mac Laptop”</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adobe Creative Cloud</td>
<td>• Adobe Creative Cloud</td>
<td><strong>Software listed runs on Windows OS only, or a version with reduced functionality is available for MAC OSX.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Microsoft Office</td>
<td>• Microsoft Office</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Considerations When Using a Mac Laptop**

**Impacts** Architecture, Interior Design, Apparel Design, Product Design  
**Does Not Impact** Graphic Design

Some software used in the academic programs for Architecture, Interior Design, and Product Design will only run on the Windows Operating System. We highly recommend running Windows on a PC in order to be able to use these software titles.

Although it is possible to run the Windows Operating System on a MacBook [via either BootCamp or Parallels], we cannot guarantee you will be able to run the software without difficulty. The upgraded MacBook Pro normally recommended for Architecture, Interior Design, and Product Design is built using a discrete graphics card that has not been validated by the various software companies. This means that they will not guarantee that the graphics card will be able to run their software without problems.

It may be true that you can run the software without problems on Mac OS X/BootCamp/Windows 7, 8, or 10, but we cannot guarantee this. You may still choose to run a Mac OS X if you wish.

**Software affected by this issue**
• AutoDesk
• AutoDesk 3DS Max
• Revit
• Solidworks
• SketchUp (will work with the graphics card, but it is not recommended to run it via BootCamp/Parallels)

**Support**

• Basic technology help is available via the **UMN Technology Help Line** (612-301-4357; help@umn.edu) and at walk-in help centers. See http://it.umn.edu/contact-us for more information.

• The University of Minnesota Bookstore has an Apple Authorized Care Center that will service Macs and well as PCs.

• The College of Design does not offer IT/technical support for student-owned laptops or devices.

**Questions?**

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612-624-8633

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