

**Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture  
First-Year Welcome Packet 2016**



Welcome to the School of Architecture (SoA) at Carnegie Mellon University! We look forward to your arrival and are confident that you will enjoy the challenging educational program and exciting cultural environment at CMU.

Please note that orientation week will be August 20–28, and the first full day of classes is August 29. In the School of Architecture, your first semester schedule is pre-planned. You will be registered by the SoA and will be able to view your schedule in Student Information Online (SIO) by late July.

Fall 2016 First-Year Schedule:

- |           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| • 48-100  | Architecture Design Studio: Foundation I   | 12 units |
| • 48-025  | First Year Seminar: Architecture Edition I | 3 units  |
| • 48-120  | Media I                                    | 12 units |
| • 62-100  | Exploring Pittsburgh                       | 6 units  |
| • 76-101  | Interpretation and Argument                | 9 units  |
| or 76-100 | Reading and Writing in an Academic Context | 9 units  |

We want you to be prepared for your start with the School of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University. To begin the process, please **review all sections in this packet:**

- Setting Up Your Andrew Account (Email and Blackboard Access)
- Required Summer Placement Exam for Non-Primary/“Native” English Speakers
- Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Courses
- 2016 School of Architecture Computing Essentials
- Computing @ Carnegie Mellon (Required Course)

Be sure to check email and take any necessary preparation steps as explained in this packet over the summer. Information about your architectural tool kit supplies and how to become a member of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) will be coming soon.

We look forward to seeing you during orientation week!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephen R. Lee.

Stephen R. Lee, AIA  
Professor and Head

Handwritten signature of Heather Workinger Midgley.

Heather Workinger Midgley, PhD  
First-Year Faculty Advisor

## Setting Up Your Andrew Account

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Your Andrew account allows you to access many of the university's computing services, including your Carnegie Mellon email. Please set up your account as soon as possible, as email is the university's and the SoA's main channel of communication with our students. You will receive updates and important information from your First-Year Faculty Advisor and Senior Academic Coordinator via your Carnegie Mellon Andrew email account, so check your email often!

When you paid your deposit to secure your place at Carnegie Mellon, you were assigned an Andrew ID and password. If you do not know your Andrew ID, you can look it up through the Carnegie Mellon directory, which can be found online at <http://www.cmu.edu/directory>. Simply type your name in the form field and click "Search."

Once you have your Andrew ID, you will need to set your password. To do this, visit <https://identity.andrew.cmu.edu/credMgmtUserWebapp/open/incomingStudent/main.html> and follow the on-screen instructions. To access the site, you will need your Admission ID, which you used through the admissions and enrollment processes.

Once you have finished setting up your Andrew Account by creating a secure and unique password, you can access your Carnegie Mellon email account. You will access your Carnegie Mellon email through Google Apps @ CMU.

To get started and login, create your Google Apps @ CMU password:

1. Log into <https://identity.andrew.cmu.edu/> with your Andrew user ID and password.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to Set a Google Apps Password.

You can access your Carnegie Mellon email through Google Apps @ CMU in web browsers and Google applications for mobile devices.

If you have any questions about computing at Carnegie Mellon, please visit the "New to Carnegie Mellon" website at: <http://www.cmu.edu/computing/new-to-cmu/>

## **Required Summer Placement Exam for Non-Primary/“Native” English Speakers**

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If you indicated in your Carnegie Mellon University admissions materials that you use English but it is not necessarily your primary language or your “native” language, you have received an email from Arianna Garofolo and Danielle Wetzell from the English Department.

If contacted, you are **required** to take the English placement exam in order to determine which first-year writing course will be most appropriate for you. You must take the exam before the School of Architecture can register you for these courses.

If you feel that you may not be required to take the English placement exam, please email [engfirst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:engfirst@andrew.cmu.edu) immediately. You will then receive a set of questions that will provide the information needed to determine whether you are required to take the exam by email. These questions will take less than ten minutes to answer.

The exam will be available from June 3rd until July 26th, but please complete the exam at your earliest convenience: *the sooner you complete the exam, the sooner you will be registered for classes.*

If you take the test by 11:59 EDT on June 28th, you will receive your placement by July 7th. If you take the test by 11:59 EDT July 26th, you will receive your placement by July 31st.

The exam is located online at CMU's Blackboard site. To access the test:

1. Go to <http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard>.
2. Enter your CMU ID and password.
3. The exam should be listed under your Courses as "F15-English Placement Exam." Click on this course and follow the instructions found there.

Please note: The exam must be completed within 48 hours after you begin, so plan to take the exam only when you have 48 hours in which to complete it. Most students in previous years report spending 5 to 6 hours on the exam.

If you have any questions or encounter any problems with the online exam, please email [engfirst@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:engfirst@andrew.cmu.edu).

## **Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Courses**

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When you applied to Carnegie Mellon, you likely submitted any Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) scores and/or transcripts of college-level work to the CMU Office of Admission. If you did not do this at the time of application, please submit your official test scores and/or official transcripts using the following instructions.

### **For AP, IB, or Cambridge General Certificate of Education Scores:**

Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge General Certificate of Education scores should be sent *directly to Carnegie Mellon University from the test provider/administrator* (i.e., College Board for AP scores). Contact the test provider/administrator to request that scores be sent to Carnegie Mellon.

### **For College-Level Coursework:**

Official transcripts for previously completed college-level work should be sent by the university/college where you completed the coursework to:

Carnegie Mellon University  
School of Architecture  
201 College of Fine Arts  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Attn: Erica Harp

You must *also send course descriptions for college-level courses to Erica Harp* at the above address or by email at [eharp@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:eharp@andrew.cmu.edu).

### **Transfer Equivalence Information:**

#### Advanced Placement (AP)

Carnegie Mellon may grant advanced placement and credit primarily for scores of five on exams taken in the CEEB Advanced Placement program. <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registration/docs/ap-credit.pdf>

#### International Baccalaureate (IB)

Carnegie Mellon also recognizes the International Baccalaureate Examinations. We may grant advanced standing and/or credit in various fields primarily for scores of six and seven on the higher-level examinations. <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registration/docs/ib-credit.pdf>

#### Cambridge General Certificate of Education

Carnegie Mellon recognizes the Cambridge GCE A-Level (advanced level) examinations in various higher-level subjects and may grant advanced placement and/or credit for exemplary grades. <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registration/docs/cambridge-credit.pdf>

#### College-Level Work

We may grant placement or credit for college work you've completed in high school. Have your official college transcript(s) sent to the address listed above for transfer credit evaluation. Additionally, please send the descriptions of the courses taken to Erica Harp (contact information listed above). Course descriptions must be translated into English for transfer credit evaluation.

## 2016 School of Architecture Computing Essentials

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To best support your educational experience and success in the School of Architecture, you will need to purchase a laptop computer and some software, and download additional free software. Because the range of software required for your SoA coursework is extensive and interconnected, we will provide computer-configuration assistance early in your fall *Media I* class. If you'd prefer to configure your own computer to your specifications before arriving on campus, you're welcome to do so; however, configuring the computer and software with our assistance will help ensure proper configuration. Choosing one of the models specified below and configuring it per SoA specifications will ensure that SoA's computing division can offer you maximum support. Full support is not guaranteed for other models.

*To ensure that you're on track when you arrive on campus, this summer you should plan to purchase your laptop, purchase and/or download the software listed below, and install that software.*

At any time, please feel free to email questions or concerns to our computing facilities staff at [soa-ithelp@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:soa-ithelp@andrew.cmu.edu). We know this can be a complicated process, and we are here to help!

### Strongly Recommended Laptop Models

#### Macbook Pro 15"

Intel i7 2.5Ghz; 3.7Ghz Turbo Quad Core  
15" Retina panel with camera and mic  
Latest Mac OS  
16GB memory  
2GB AMD R9 Desktop Radeon Graphics  
512GB SSD  
Dual Band Wireless with Bluetooth  
Backlit keyboard  
Thunderbolt 2  
1-year warranty  
Applecare 3-year Warranty Extension (add-on)  
*Boot Camp + Windows 10 are required\*\**

#### Dell Precision 3510\*\*\*

Intel Xeon E3 1505M V5 2.8Ghz; 3.6Ghz Turbo  
15" 1080 panel with camera and mic  
Windows 10 x 64  
16GB DDR4 ECC workstation memory  
2GB AMD FirePRO workstation graphics  
512GB NVMe M.2 SSD  
Dual Band Wireless with Bluetooth  
Backlit keyboard  
Thunderbolt 3  
3-year warranty  
3-year Accidental Damage

Additionally, and at no charge, the school will offer 22" monitors attached to articulated arms. These are only for use within our studios and support both VGA and DVI connections. Other connections may be available via adapters (not provided).

Before purchasing any computer, be sure to contact the Carnegie Mellon Computing Store, which offers many systems (including the Mac described above) at a significant discount not found elsewhere. While the Computing Store's website is sparse, its salespeople are extremely helpful when contacted by phone. [www.cmu.edu/computing/store](http://www.cmu.edu/computing/store) / (412) 268-2636.

\*\*\***UPDATED 18 JULY 2016:** We are glad to announce an easy-to-use [purchasing portal](#) with discounted pricing on our recommended Dell laptop. Once you enter the site, you will need to select the station for architecture students; from there you can view pricing on both the baseline model and an upgraded version (which includes the following extras: touch screen; extended battery; fingerprint reader). Certainly contact us with any questions. Direct portal link: <http://dell.com/DellU/CMU>.

## Essential Software and Where to Find It

Please be aware that software requirements are constantly updated and are subject to change. We may contact you later this summer with further software suggestions.

**\*\* Regardless of your laptop choice, please acquire the Windows version of all software.**

*Mac versions are not supported and in many cases do not include all necessary functions. If you prefer to purchase and use a Mac rather than a PC, you must install Apple's Boot Camp, which allows you to install Microsoft Windows on your Mac, to switch between the Mac and Windows operating systems, and to use Windows versions of software on a Mac. Learn more about Boot Camp at [www.apple.com/support/bootcamp](http://www.apple.com/support/bootcamp).*

### Software to Purchase, Download and Install:

#### Rhino 5

- Purchase direct with student discount at [https://www.rhino3d.com/sales/north-america/United\\_States](https://www.rhino3d.com/sales/north-america/United_States)
- Select "Student and Faculty, Rhino 5 for Windows."
- Troubleshooting is available at [support@mecsoft.com](mailto:support@mecsoft.com)

#### Adobe Creative Cloud All Apps

- The "All Apps" package is essential and more economical than purchasing apps individually.
- Purchase pre-paid student cards from the CMU Computer store (<http://www.cmu.edu/stores/computer/>), or visit the Adobe student site for discounts (<https://creative.adobe.com/plans?plan=edu&promoid=KTROQ>).
- Troubleshooting is available via Adobe's website.

### Software to Download for Free and Install:

#### Windows 10

- PC users with Windows pre-installed may skip this download and save their CMU license for later use.
- Students can obtain licenses at the CMU DreamSpark page (<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/software/all/dreamspark/>).
- Troubleshooting: [it-help@cmu.edu](mailto:it-help@cmu.edu)
- Remember: if you are using a Mac, you will need to install Boot Camp to run Windows.

#### Autodesk Building Design Suite Ultimate

- Free for students via <http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/autocad>
- Troubleshooting: [support@autodesk.zendesk.com](mailto:support@autodesk.zendesk.com)

#### Microsoft Office 365

- Download from Microsoft Student Page (<https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education>)
- Troubleshooting: <https://support.office.com/>

For specific computing questions, additional details, or questions concerning laptop computers, please email our computing facilities staff at [soa-ithelp@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:soa-ithelp@andrew.cmu.edu). We are here to help!

## Computing @ Carnegie Mellon

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Computing @ Carnegie Mellon (C@CM) provides information about CMU's computing environment. This course (99-101) is **required** for all Carnegie Mellon undergraduates.

### Early Access Course Offering

You will have the opportunity to start C@CM coursework early over the summer beginning **July 5th**. Students will have until **August 12th** to complete the coursework if they wish to take the final exam on the Friday of Orientation Week and complete the course before starting the fall semester.

All incoming, first-year students will be automatically enrolled in 99-101 X1—the special section for the “Early Access” course offering, which you will be able to see in SIO.

Beginning July 5, you can begin by reviewing the Course Orientation in the C@CM [Blackboard](#) course. After reviewing the Course Orientation, FAQs and Known Issues, you'll click on the C@CM OLI course link in [Blackboard](#) to access the online course materials. There is no direct link to the online course. You must go through Blackboard to access the C@CM course and online materials.

*You are **not required** to start your coursework early, and there is no penalty for not starting early. The "Early Access" course offering is simply an option for those students who have time to devote to the course before the Fall 2016 semester begins. Students who do not finish early will take the course over the standard 7-week schedule during the Fall 2016 semester.*