Software Purchasing Resources

Below is a list of applications that UTSOA students use. Some of these programs are supported or required for UTSOA courses, others aren't. For information about training, visit Software Training and Tutorials

Function	Name	UTSOA Labs	PC Only	How Students Use It	Strengths	Weaknesses	Cost Structure	Link
Non-Design	ArcGIS	Yes	Yes				Free	ArcGIS is free for UT students at UT. UT Libraries has a great wiki page with detailed instructions. They also have tutorials for research-related GIS tasks. Once you set up your ArcGIS Online account, you can install the ArcGIS Pro desktop applications. They can be downloaded here.
	ClimateStudio	Yes	Yes	Simulating daylight, electric lighting, and conceptual thermal loads			Free for Education	Rhino plugin. E-mail trig@utexas.edu for the license key. Licenses are valid for up to 7 days at a time. • ClimateStudio FAQ • Solemma Learning Hub • ClimateStudio Guide
	Google Earth Pro	Yes	No	Exploring site conditions and contexts	Download high-resolution satellite images		Free	https://www.google.com/earth/versions/#download-pro
	Microsoft o365	Yes	No				Free	Log in with your EID credentials
	Microsoft Windows 10	Yes	Yes				$19.99	https://store.hied.com/item/Microsoft/WAH+Windows+10/1605667 (requires a login in here first). We don't recommend running Boot Camp on a Mac to use Windows. Virtualizing Windows on a Mac is possible but requires the user to be technologically savvy enough to support it.
	R	Yes	No	Statistical computing			Free	https://www.r-project.org/
	SPSS	No	No	Statistical computing			$92.99/yr	https://store.hied.com/item/IBM+SPSS/IBM+SPSS+Statistics/1693258
CAD Modeling	Rhino 3D	Yes	No	Iterative massing models Model complex geometry, like curved surfaces Easily create 2D drawings	Highly Accurate, versatile, includes parametric functionality	Somewhat difficult to learn	Perpetual Education/Commercial* License - $195 (per version) * There are no usage limitations on this license. It is the same as the full commercial version and never expires.	*If you would like to upgrade a previous license earlier than this, you can do it directly through McNeel for $95 through this link. For proof of eligibility, you can access and save your tuition bill receipt from this link.*
	Sketchup	No	No	Quickly model Share models with students in other disciplines/students without subscriptions to paid software	Easy to Learn, quick Entourage from 3D Warehouse easily enlivens models Files can be accessed online with any computer with a free web-only version	Imprecise, slow when files get large	Yearly Ed. Subscription - $55 Free web-only version (limited functionality)	https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing/sketchup-studio-for-higher-education https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing#for-personal
	AutoCAD	Yes	No	Create 2D drawings Import and export to a variety of other software	Closest to drawing lines on paper, industry standard for 2D	Somewhat difficult to learn	Free with Ed. Account	https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software
	Fusion 360	Yes	No	Mostly used to model for industrial manufacturing processes like CNC or 3D Printing	Easy to create models using variables	Hard to make non-industrial looking products	Free with Ed. Account	https://www.autodesk.com/products/fusion-360/students-teachers-educators?mktvar004=668081&internalc=true

	3DS Max	Yes	Yes	Rendering and animation	Robust material editing ability Integrates with other Autodesk Applications	Difficult to learn	Free with Ed. Account	https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software
	Netfabb	No	Yes	Testing and repairing 3D CAD files			Free with Ed. Account	https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software
BIM	Revit	Yes	Yes	Model at a greater technical resolution than Rhino, with embedded materials and thicknesses Automatic generation of organized 2D drawings	Industry-standard Large library of standard building components Manages collaboration on a single model	Not conducive to loose massing modeling	Free with Ed. Account	https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software
Rendering	V-Ray	Yes	Yes	Render light, and sometimes materials, for perspectives and 2d drawings	Good initial results only get better with additional adjustments Ample materials included Available online	Requires a lot of computer power	Yearly Ed. License - $99	https://www.chaosgroup.com/education/students
	Enscape	Yes	Yes	Instant rendering plugin for Rhino, Revit, and SketchUp	Fast, real-time rendering will good initial results	Oversaturated at times	Free with Ed. Account	https://enscape3d.com/educational-license/
	Lumion	No	Yes	*This software has never been required in any UTSOA courses and it isn't installed on any UTSOA computers*	Vast compatibility with modeling software	Requires a lot of CPU & GPU power	Free with Ed. Account	https://lumion.com/students.html GPU scoring a G3DMark of 7,000 or higher with up-to-date drivers. (Such as the Nvidia GeForce GTX 1650, Quadro K6000, AMD Radeon RX 470 or better)
	Blender	No	No		Professional grade, open-source 3D modeling for free	Difficult to learn	Open Source	https://www.blender.org/
	ArchVision RPC	No	Yes	Populate your renderings with entourage			Yearly Ed. License - $99	https://archvision.com/shop/archvision-rpc-software-edu/
Raster Graphic Editing	Adobe Photoshop	Yes	No	Powerful functionality, from quick touch-ups on drawings to adding layers of depth to renders Link to other Adobe programs for seamless editing	Industry-standard Lots of educational material is available	Expensive	Yearly Creative Cloud Subscription - $199.95	https://campuscomputer.com/campuscomputer/ Sign in with UT ID and search for adobe
	Affinity Photo	Yes	No	Alternative to Adobe Photoshop	Similar to Photoshop Often on sale Perpetual license	Missing some of the "smart" features of Photoshop	Perpetual License - $25-50	https://affinity.serif.com/en-us/photo/
	GIMP	No	No		Free, open-source	Significantly different than the industry standard	Open Source	https://www.gimp.org/
	Procreate (iPad)	No	No		Intuitive, mobile, able to edit .PSD	Apple Specific	App Store - $9.99	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/procreate/id425073498
Vector Graphic Editing	Adobe Illustrator	Yes	No	Assign lineweight to drawings exported from Rhino, Revit, AutoCAD, etc. Link to other Adobe programs for seamless editing	Industry-standard Lots of educational material is available	Expensive	Yearly Creative Cloud Subscription - $199.95	https://store.hied.com/item/Adobe/Creative+Cloud+for+Education/1880707 (requires a login in here first)

	Affinity Designer	Yes	No	Alternative to Adobe Illustrator	Similar to Illustrator Often on sale Perpetual license		Perpetual License - $25-50	https://affinity.serif.com/en-us/designer/
	GIMP	No	No		Free, open-source	Significantly different than the industry standard	Open Source	https://www.gimp.org/
	Inkscape	No	No		Free, open-source	Significantly different than the industry standard	Open Source	https://inkscape.org/
Document Layout Editing	Adobe InDesign	Yes	No	Combine drawings into boards for reviews Portfolio design Link to other Adobe programs for seamless editing	Industry-standard Lots of educational material is available	Expensive	Yearly Creative Cloud Subscription - $199.95	https://campuscomputer.com/campuscomputer/ Sign in with UT ID and search for adobe
	Affinity Publisher	Yes	No	Alternative to Adobe InDesign	Similar to InDesign Often on sale Perpetual license		Perpetual License - $25-50	https://affinity.serif.com/en-us/publisher/
	Microsoft Publisher	No	No		Included with Microsoft o365, simple	Somewhat clunky interface	Free through UT o365 Access	https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/publisher

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