

School of Photographic Arts and Sciences (SPAS) Freshman Equipment Guide

As a student in RIT's Photo School, you will find that we are available to support you with photographic gear and the opportunity to benefit from special EDU pricing on select products that you will need for your education and your career.

When you are on campus, you will have access to the widest assortment of photographic gear on the planet through our SPAS Equipment Cage. And while you will be able to borrow this gear, the intent is to make it available to you in order to supplement and extend the capabilities of your own gear.

To achieve the greatest success in school and beyond, it is essential that you come into the program with your own camera and other select equipment that you will be using on a very regular basis. By doing so, you will have the opportunity to become intimately familiar with and fully understand the most important tools of your trade.

This document provides guidelines and suggestions on what to get and where to get it. We are also including information regarding computers, software and insurance for equipment protection.

Note: *Student loans may also be used to include the purchase of equipment and supplies. Please check with your financial aid advisor for more information.*

I. Required Equipment list for ALL SPAS students:

- Digital Cameras:
 - A full frame (FF) digital camera (DSLR or Mirrorless) that accepts interchangeable lenses
 - Full Frame is generally preferred, as this maintains normal focal length views
 - The Cage has a full range of lenses to support your brand of choice
 - Manual exposure as well as auto exposure capability
 - Ability to shoot in RAW format and HD video with customizable White Balance
- Lens:
 - Lenses for BFA students:
 - Fixed focal length (prime) f/2.0 or faster is recommended. 35mm, 50 or 85mm or you could choose a zoom in the range of 24-70 f/2.8
 - Slower speed zoom ("kit" lenses) are not recommended due to lower quality

- Lenses for BS students:
 - Macro lens (50/60mm or 100/105mm) capable of reproduction of 1:1 (life size with or without extension tubes)
 - Lens does NOT need to be auto-focus
- X-Rite Color Checker Passport:
 - Passport color checker Photo 2 #CCPP2 (required)
 - Passport color checker Video #CCPPV (optional)
 - Available at: <https://calibrite.com/us/product-category/capture-solutions/>
- Remote Shutter Release/Tethering cords:
 - There are multiple options, both wireless and wired. Be sure to check your camera model for compatibility. For more information on camera tethering: <https://tethertools.com/blog/usb-compatibility/>
- Light Meter:
 - Meter should be ambient and flash capable in both incident and reflective modes, as well as able to display in EV values
- Tripod:
 - Aluminum or carbon fiber legs, ball head with “Arca-Swiss” compatible quick release plate (QR). (An extra QR plate is recommended)
- Camera Bag:
 - Soft sided bag with good equipment protection, comfort for carrying and easy access
- Media:
 - 32GB size or larger for your card whether it be SD, CF, XQD, etc.
 - A memory card reader (multi format capable, USB 3 speed)
 - USB flash drive 32GB or larger ex.: <https://www.amazon.com/SanDisk-128GB-Ultra-Drive-Type-C/dp/B01EZ0X55C>
 - Note: Reliable brands (such as SanDisk or Lexar) are recommended, as less expensive cards can corrupt easily, resulting in data loss
- External Storage Drives:
 - Two drives, at least 1 or 2 TB in size (USB3, and 7200rpm or SSD)
 - You will need to format these drives to exFAT so they will work with either MAC or Windows. (depending on your personal computer platform choice, BUT SPAS/CAD labs are MAC based)
 - Stand-alone (bus powered) hard drives are best; one drive will be a working drive, the other should be an archive/backup drive
 - Adapters required to connect your devices to your computer. Spares are always a good idea!
 - Note: Trusted brand names such as G-Tech, LaCie, Seagate, WD are more reliable

II. Insurance:

- While purchasing equipment insurance is not a requirement, it is **HIGHLY** recommended as coverage for your personal equipment, as well as the equipment you will be using from the photo cage. RIT has partnered with a company called Gallagher, otherwise known as “College Student Insurance”, for this policy: <https://www.collegestudentinsurance.com>

III. Computers:

- The computers in our labs are Mac based and will support the standard requirements of your assignments and projects. However, it is strongly recommended that you have your own computer for use. You will be working with memory-intensive applications so your system hardware needs to provide a higher level of performance than most home based computers. Some recommended guidelines include:
 - System Hardware Requirements:
 - 2 GHz or faster, i5 or greater processor / 16GB Ram minimum
 - Mac OS10+ or Windows 10 (64 bit) operating systems
 - Graphics Card and Display (as much as you can afford)
 - Drive: Solid State preferred, 1 TB minimum
 - Special EDU pricing is available directly from a few companies. Two of the most popular:
 - Apple Education Store: www.apple.com/us-hed/shop
 - Dell University: www.dell.com/en-us/member/shop/delluniversity/cp/delluniversity

IV. Software:

- On campus you will have access to many software programs. To facilitate use of Adobe products on your own computer, you can take advantage of the special pricing and register for your own educational Creative Cloud plan which will provide you with access to Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop, Premier Pro and 20 other Adobe programs plus 100GB of Cloud storage for \$19.99/month. www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html
- As a student another essential suite of products you will have free access to is Microsoft Office 365 Education which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint OneNote, Microsoft Teams plus additional classroom tools. You use your RIT school email address to get started: www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office
- RIT offers Google Apps services as part of your RIT email account: <https://www.rit.edu/its/services/email/gmail>

V. Where to Buy and other Resources:

- Camera comparisons and reviews: www.dpreview.com and www.imaging-resource.com
- Many photo manufactures may offer “Educational Discounts” (EDU), some directly, others through a vendor such as B&H Photo, Adorama and Roberts Camera. Check the company’s website for membership requirements and benefits.
- Links to multiple manufacturers and vendor websites:
 - Society of Photographic Education – Industry Resources <https://www.spenational.org/resources/educational-offers>
- Other suppliers of EDU priced computer and software products are:
 - Academic Superstore: www.academicssuperstore.com
- Manufacturer’s websites:
 - Canon: www.usa.canon.com
 - Fujifilm: www.fujifilmusa.com
 - Nikon: www.nikonusa.com
 - Olympus: www.olympusamerica.com

- Sony: www.sony.com
- Mac Group: www.photovideoedu.com
- CAD: www.inside.cad.rit.edu

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school's photo office at 585-475-2716 or spastour@rit.edu so you can be directed to someone who can help you out.