

Additional Things to remember

CDs/DVDs
Printer cartridges (*online is cheaper*)
Inkjet Paper: photo, regular
Extra storage card for your camera

Additional Art-making Tools (*bring if you already own*)

Cell Phone (*A note about cell phones: coverage is sometimes spotty in the region. Go to <http://www.alfredwireless.com> for discounts*)
Ipod
Digital Recorder
Sewing machine (*spring semester*)

Online Purchasing

Alfred, educational discount,
(www.alfred.edu/its/index.cfm/fuseaction/other.comppurch.cfm)
Mac (www.apple.com)
Gateway (<https://select.gateway.com>)
MacWorld (www.macworld.com)
PCWorld (www.pcworld.com)
J&R (www.jr.com)
B&H (www.bhphotovideo.com)
Adorama (www.adorama.com)

Reviews +Price Comparison

Bizrate (www.bizrate.com)
Epinions (www.epinions.com)
Price Grabber (www.pricegrabber.com)

Better Photo (www.betterphoto.com)
Digital Photography Review (www.dpreview.com)
Digital Camera Review (www.digitalcamerareview.com)
Cnet reviews (reviews.cnet.com)
Consumer Reports (www.online.consumerreports.org)

ALFRED FOUNDATIONS TECHNOLOGY GUIDE

You are about to enter college as an art major! One difference between your selected course of study and others is that you will need to buy lots of equipment, tools and materials over the next four years. It is important that you select new tools and equipment carefully since you will be using these items nearly everyday. In an effort to help you in your search, we have provided this Technology Guide and suggestions for artmaking technology and related materials.

For your first year of study, we recommend that you bring to school a computer, digital camera, and printer. A flash drive, CD/DVD's, extra printer cartridges, and a variety of regular and photo paper are also very useful. It is convenient to have them on hand and buying them ahead of time may be your cheapest option. We would suggest that you bring with you any of the following if you already OWN them, but they are not required for coursework: cell phone, ipod, digital recorder and sewing machine.

You may find that you already own some of the suggested items. If this is true for you, it is perfectly fine to start the year with what you have and see how they work for your specific needs. If you do need to purchase new, we have found that buying from a reputable online business is one of the most effective ways to get the most for your money. These sites also can provide product information and customer reviews that are very helpful in choosing the best model for your needs.

What model you select will depend on your individual needs, what you want to spend and your areas of interest. For example, if you intend to study Expanded Media you may want to consider a more expansive computer or if you plan to study photography, a SLR or Digital SLR camera.

Computer

You'll use a computer most days at Alfred, from checking your email (*a Foundations requirement*) to researching and writing papers, to adjusting images and printing them. A computer is an expensive investment and should be bought according to *your* needs, so consider several things: where and when will you most likely use it, do you want a Mac or a PC, a laptop or desk model, what level of computer do you need, your future goals and how much money you want to spend.

- As a college student you are eligible for an education discount from both Mac and Gateway. To find out more about this check the Alfred University site, go to www.alfred.edu/its/index.cfm/fuseaction/other.comppurch.cfm Select SUNY College of Ceramics or put in zip code 14802 for pricing.
- While the university as a whole uses PCs, the School of Art and many artists/designers use Macintosh.
- A laptop is a good choice because you can bring it to class, the library or a coffee shop.
- Watch out for incentives, often you can get a printer or ipod with your computer purchase.

Digital Camera

During the year you will be asked to use a camera for visual research and to document your work. Select a camera that fits your needs* and budget. For most a compact model with *at least* 8 megapixels will work for most people. Since the quality of your images will be important, it is best to buy a good quality brand with the highest resolution you can afford. These top brands all make excellent cameras: Canon Sony, Panasonic, Nikon, or Olympus.

You will find the best selection, lowest prices and most information by purchasing a digital camera online. Following are several reputable sites that faculty members have used over the years. You might start by checking sites that provide a buying guide and reviews first (<http://reviews.cnet.com/>) and then look at Bizrate (www.bizrate.com), Epinions (<http://www.epinions.com>) or Price Grabber

(<http://www.pricegrabber.com>) to see who offers the least expensive price after you have selected the model you desire. With a little research you can find an excellent resolution digital camera for a reasonable price.

You might also want to purchase additional storage for your camera. Most come with a CompactFlash, Smartmedia or other PC card, but usually this is not large enough to store many photos.

**Just a note, if you are planning on taking Photography courses you will need a SLR (single lens reflex) camera for Sophomore Photography and if you elect to take Digital Photography (junior) you will need a Digital SLR. If you do buy a SLR or DSLR you should consider purchasing a protective UV filter for your lens.*

Printer

Many times you will be asked to print out images from your digital camera or the Internet and bring them to the class the next day. It is often difficult to find a good color printer on campus for this purpose. We recommend that you purchase or bring with you a color inkjet printer that prints at least 8.5 x 11. Printers have come way down in price and sometimes are bundled with a computer purchase. You might also consider purchasing one together with your roommate. Excellent choices would be any inexpensive Canon, HP or Epson printer. For a good guide to printers check out: http://printers.bizrate.com/printers/buying_guides/basics.html Remember to purchase extra cartridges, they are much cheaper online and you will run out!

USB Flash Drive or Thumb drive

You may find it convenient to buy/bring a flash drive. These small devices make it easy to take your files to a printer or to share images. They hold lots of data and start at about \$15 for a 512 MB.