

VCT Equipment/Software Requirements

The following is a list of recommendations for equipment needed for any students participating in the Visual Communication Technology program. This list pertains to VCT Majors, Minors or Auditing Students. The list outlines specific requirements for equipment that need to be met for courses. *We do not recommend specific brands, models or retailers to purchase the equipment.* It is up to each student to make sure the equipment they are purchasing meets the specified requirements of the course or program. If students have any questions, please contact VCT Faculty to discuss these equipment requirements.

Student participating in any of the VCT courses should have the following equipment/supplies.

Required:

- One (1) 4 GB USB Flash Drive

Recommended:

- One (1) DVD-R or DVD-RW (per course)
 - Flash Drive, USB 2.0 (concentration in print, photography and multimedia)
 - External hard drive, USB 2.0 or Firewire (IEEE 1394) Hard Drive (all concentrations)
 - Computer System with a Minimum 4GB Memory, 320GB HD, such as Mac Book or Mac Book Pro, or iMac. Windows Systems will work but are less common in the media industry. VCT labs are primarily Mac Systems.
 - Macintosh Software* MS Office 2008 Student, Adobe Creative Suite 5 Design Premium Student Edition**, Apple Final Cut Express or Apple Final Cut Pro (optional), MS Windows 7 (optional for dual-boot Mac)
 - Educational / Academic version pricing is available from Adobe, Apple, and Microsoft via BGSU Bookstore.
 - Education versions are fully functional software packages. They are only sold to qualifying students at these discounted prices.
- **BGSU Bookstore has very low pricing on Adobe and Microsoft software.

VCT 2820, 3820, 4600 & 4650: Photography coursework.

Students must have a Digital Single Lens Reflex camera.

Required:

- Digital SLR camera – most common brands are Nikon and Canon

Recommended:

- 4GB or higher compact flash card or SD media card
- USB or FireWire compact flash card reader
- Polarizing, color and UV filters
- Epson 2200 or higher color inkjet printer
- Multiple colors of gels for lighting
- Detachable Flash
- Hot shoe connector for strobe lights
- Tripod with quick release and leveling bubble, Sturdy model able to hold camera in windy conditions (can also be used for video courses).

(requirements continued on next page)

VCT 2680, 3690 & 4690: Video production coursework. Students must have a Mini-DV or flash-based video camera. DSLR cameras that capture video are also acceptable. Hi-8, Digital-8, VHS, VHS-C and SVHS will not be useable with our facilities.

Required:

- The camera must have *manual focus*
- The camera must have *manual shutter speed and aperture controls* (Cameras that operate only on full automatic are not permitted)
- The camera must have *manual white balance control*. This is not a preset (automatic white balance), but an actual manual calibration (ask your instructor about the difference).
- Mic input availability (Mini-Stereo or XLR)
- USB 2.0 or FireWire (IEEE 1394) output
- 20GB portable drive to store video footage
- Tripod with quick release and leveling bubble, Sturdy model able to hold camera in windy conditions (can also be used for photography courses).

Examples*:

- Canon Vixia HF Series, Canon 5D, Canon 7D, Canon Rebel T2i, Sony Handycam Series, Nikon D5000, JVC Everio Series

***NOTE:** All examples are for reference purpose only and may not meet the standard requirements for a specific course. Equipment make, model and functions constantly change. It is up to each student to make sure the equipment they are purchasing meets the specified course requirements.

Edited 5/7/11