

COMPUTERS FOR MPT STUDENTS

MPT has an editing lab equipped with 18 iMacs loaded with the major software we use:

- *Final Cut Studio*: a suite of post-production programs for editing, sound, DVD authoring etc. \$500
- *Final Draft* or *Screenwriter*: screenwriting software that automatically format your screenplays. \$150-200
- *EP Scheduling & Budgeting*: for producing. \$200/ea

The editing lab is open 16 hours a day, 10 hours on weekends. Most students do their work there. So there is no need to purchase any of this software unless you want the flexibility to work somewhere other than the lab.

If you are buying a new computer and can afford it, we recommend Mac since Final Cut, our main program, is Mac based and is what students use in the lab and are comfortable with. However, screenwriting and producing software will run on either Mac or PC. So if purchase of Final Cut is not an option, a PC will work just fine.

If you do buy a Mac, realize that video is very computer intensive, and media files are very large. If you want a laptop, it must be a *MacBook Pro*. *MacBook* and *MacBook Air* are not powerful enough to run Final Cut. The *iMac*, a desktop, also works well. Most of our students prefer the flexibility of a laptop.

We do require all students to own an external hard drive on which to keep their media. It *must* have Firewire and should have a minimum of 500G, but we recommend the largest capacity you can afford. Students also need their own headphones if they work in the lab. Ipod earbuds work fine. We also highly recommend you purchase a screenwriting program. Either works fine.

Please note: Computer power keeps going up every year and price keeps going down. Production courses don't start until sophomore year. So don't buy until you need to.