

COMPUTERS FOR MPT STUDENTS

MPT has an editing lab equipped with 18 iMacs loaded with all the major software we use. It is open 16 hours on weekdays, 10 hours on weekends. Most students do their work there. So there is no need to purchase a special computer or 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 Studio, our main program, is Mac based and is what students use in the lab and are comfortable with. All our screenwriting and producing software will run on either Mac or PC. So if you don't ever plan to purchase Final Cut, a PC will work fine.

Working with video is very computer intensive and media files, are very large. If you do buy a Mac, get the most powerful one with the most memory and best graphics card you can afford Go for the bigger screen. 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* desktop works very well. Most of our students prefer the flexibility of a laptop. In all cases, go for the bigger screen. 15" is fine on the Mac Pro, 17" is better but not essential.

We require all students to own an external hard drive on which to keep all their media. It *must* have Firewire and should have a minimum of 500G. Again, we recommend the largest capacity you can afford. Students also need their own headphones to work in the lab. iPod ear buds work fine.

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

Academic pricing for our software is as follows:

- *Final Cut Studio*: a suite of post-production programs for editing, sound, DVD authoring etc. \$899 new, \$299 to upgrade.
- *Final Draft* or *Screenwriter*: screenwriting software that automatically formats your screenplays. \$100. Recommended.
- *EP Scheduling & Budgeting*: for producing. \$100/ea