SUPPLY LIST - SPAS

CAD Tech Student Managers - 2026-07-03 - Hardware and Software Recommendations & Information

School of Photographic Arts and Sciences (SPAS)

2026 First-Year Equipment Guide

PROGRAMS: Advertising Photography, Fine Art Photography, Photojournalism, Visual Media, Photographic Sciences

WELCOME!

Congratulations on your acceptance to RIT Photo! We are excited to welcome you to the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences (SPAS) this fall. SPAS students have access to our Equipment Cage for specialized assignments and creative needs, but students should arrive with the core equipment they will use regularly.

This guide identifies required, program-specific, recommended, and optional equipment as a first-year SPAS student. This is not comprehensive; students will likely expand their gear as they progress through the degree and identify additional areas of interest/need. Highlighted items should be obtained before classes begin.

NOTE: Student loans may be used to purchase required equipment and supplies. Please check with your financial aid advisor for details.

Before you buy: Check camera reviews, accessory compatibility, and compare educational pricing; see **Purchasing Resources** below. If you have questions, contact us at SPAStour@rit.edu.

Required Equipment for All SPAS students

Digital Camera

Students are required to have a digital camera with the following features:

- Full-frame digital camera, DSLR or mirrorless, that accepts interchangeable lenses.

- Manual exposure and custom white balance capability.
- Ability to shoot in RAW format and HD video.
- Compatibility with commonly supported lens systems such as Canon, Nikon, Fujifilm, Sony, or similar brands.

Certified used cameras from reputable dealers can be a strong option and retain their value well. A model manufactured within the last five years is recommended if pursuing the used option. The SPAS Equipment Cage carries a wide range of lenses to support many popular camera systems; however, students should still own the core camera body and primary lens or lenses they will use regularly.

All SPAS Photography students should plan to own at least one high-quality lens suitable for regular coursework. Recommended options include:

- Fixed focal length prime lenses at f/2.0 or faster, such as 35mm, 50mm, or 85mm.
- A high-quality zoom lens that approximates this range, such as a 24–70mm, f/2.8 (the lower the f/number, the "faster" and more versatile the lens will be)

A good starting point is one (1) high-quality zoom lens and a plan to purchase a prime lens or good quality zoom lens within the first two years. Slower "kit" zoom lenses that are often bundled with a camera are a reasonable option to start but you will likely want to upgrade within your four years. The Cage has a number of high quality lenses to supplement and try out your options

Required Accessories for All SPAS students

Calibrite ColorChecker Passport

Required: Calibrite ColorChecker Passport Photo #CCPP2. Purchase new; ***used is not recommended***.

The ColorChecker Passport Video #CCPP2 may be considered an optional alternative depending on student needs.

Light Meter

Students should have a light meter that is:

- Ambient and flash capable.
- Usable in both incident and reflective modes.
- Able to display exposure values (EVs).

Tripod

Students should have a sturdy tripod with:

- Aluminum or carbon fiber legs.
- Ball head or pan-tilt head.
- Compatible quick-release plate.

An extra quick-release plate is recommended.

Camera Bag

Students should have a soft-sided camera bag that provides:

- Good equipment protection.
- Comfortable carrying.
- Easy access to camera gear.

Required Media and Storage for All SPAS students

Memory Cards and Readers

Students should have:

- Minimum of one (two recommended) 64GB or larger memory cards compatible with their camera.
- A memory card reader for computer connection, preferably USB-C and multi-format capable.
- A 128GB or larger USB flash drive.

Common formats include SD, SDHC, SDXC, CFexpress, and XQD; confirm card type and speed requirements before purchasing.
Recommended brands include Kingston, Lexar, and SanDisk.

External Storage Drives

Students should have two external storage drives, each at least 1TB or 2TB: one working drive and one backup/archive drive. These are NOT thumb type drives, but true dedicated external hard drives. (You may also want a few thumb drives for the sake of utility/moving smaller files, but those should not be used as storage).

Recommended: USB 3.2, bus-powered, 7200rpm hard drive or SSD. Students may also need adapters, the most common port in our labs is USB-C. Trusted brands include G-Tech/SanDisk, LaCie, Seagate, and WD.

Strongly Recommended

Remote Shutter Release or Tethering Cords

Students should have a remote shutter release and/or tethering cords compatible with their camera system. Wired or wireless options are acceptable if compatible with the student's camera.

Equipment Insurance

Equipment insurance is highly recommended to protect personal equipment and items borrowed from the SPAS Equipment Cage.

Insurance can help protect both personal equipment and equipment borrowed from the SPAS Equipment Cage. RIT has partnered with Gallagher (https://www.collegestudentinsurance.com) to provide an affordable and comprehensive student equipment insurance option.

RIT specific enrollment can be found here https://app.collegestudentinsurance.com/policyinfo.aspx.

Purchasing Resources

SPAS provides access to support, special offers, and student pricing made available through the imaging industry. Vendors such as B&H Photo, Adorama, and Roberts Camera, Photo/Video EDU offer competitive educational discounts

for much of their equipment for students.

Students and families are encouraged to compare options carefully and look for educational discounts before purchasing. Additional purchasing resources include:

- RIT Campus Store
- Society of Photographic Education industry resources
- Photo manufacturer educational discount programs are available through our Cage: contact Katirina Herbs at kxhpph@rit.edufor more information.
- Camera review and comparison sites such as DPReview
- EDU-priced computer, peripherals and software suppliers such as Academic Superstore, or B&H, Adorama, etc.

Questions?

Please review the information provided above. Should you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences office at **585-475-2716** or **spastour@rit.edu**. We will be delighted to assist you in identifying the most suitable equipment that aligns with your budget and educational goals.