

CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

MUSIC MAJORS

First Year Supplies and Materials 2025-2026

This supply list is for all incoming Music students at Cornish. It includes both technological and traditional materials required for a successful year as a Music Major. Please read this document thoroughly to ensure you're ready to go before classes begin!

Content

1. Supplies & Materials | 2025-2026 & Beyond
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1. Supplies and Materials for the First Year Studios

As you enter Cornish, you are expected to acquire supplies just as you would buy textbooks. Below is a list designed to encompass the basic needs of many first-year required studio courses. All tools will continue to be useful throughout your years of study at Cornish and beyond. Additional tools or supplies may need to be purchased throughout the year for specific classes, projects, or personal work outside of class.

Required Supplies:

General Music Supplies:

- ☐ **Notebook(s) and Pens:** For taking notes in all classes, especially in theory, history, and analysis courses.
- ☐ **Manuscript Paper:** For notating music. You can find this at any music store or online.
- ☐ **Portable Digital Recorder:** Useful for recording rehearsals, lessons, and practice sessions (smartphones with a solid recording app works great).
- ☐ **Tuner and Metronome:** Can be separate devices or combined (many smartphone apps are available).
- ☐ **Binder:** To keep sheet music and handouts organized.

Instruments:

- ☐ **Personal Instrument:** Students are expected to have their primary instrument for practice and performance. For vocalists, this includes their voice, and ensuring they have appropriate vocal care supplies.
- ☐ **Instrument Accessories:** Depending on the instrument, this may include reeds, strings, rosin, valve oil, etc.
- ☐ **Headphones:** Quality over-ear headphones for critical listening and recording sessions.

2. Incoming Student Laptop Requirements & Recommendations

As a Music Major, having a capable laptop is essential for your career. Therefore, all Music Majors are **required** to have a technologically advanced laptop (Apple or PC), and a subscription to Ableton Live 12.

Important Note: Only information provided by Cornish Admissions or your program's Chair regarding these requirements is accurate. ***Do not listen to anyone who suggests downloading bootleg music software for free or using alternative open-source software.*** This information is incorrect, and students who have ignored these requirements are experiencing major difficulties in their classes. If you have any doubts or need clarification, please connect with your admissions counselor or department.

Below are the minimum and recommended specifications. We highly recommend opting for the recommended higher-end specifications to ensure a quicker and smoother workflow, benefiting your career long after graduation. For questions or purchasing advice, please contact admission@cornish.edu.

If you need financial assistance to purchase a laptop, please contact your financial aid counselor at finaid@cornish.edu. Options may include borrowing additional funds through private loans or Parent Plus loans, up to an extra \$3,000 specifically for required equipment.

Software:

- ☐ [**Ableton Live 12 Student and Teacher Edition**](#)

Apple Laptop Options

Apple Minimum Specifications

☐ [Macbook Air](#)

- Apple M2 or M3 chip 8-Core CPU
- 10-Core GPU
- 8GB or 16GB Unified Memory
- 256GB or 512GB SSD Storage
- 16-core Neural Engine
- Liquid Retina display with True Tone²
- 1080p FaceTime HD camera
- MagSafe 3 charging port
- Two Thunderbolt / USB 4 ports
- Support for up to two external displays (with laptop lid closed)
- Magic Keyboard with Touch ID
- Force Touch trackpad
- 35W Dual USB-C Port Compact Power Adapter

Starting at \$999 with M2 chip or \$1,699.00 with M3 chip.

Starting at \$899 with M2 chip or 1,599.00 with M3 chip with [Apple for Education](#).

Apple Recommended Specifications

☐ [Macbook Pro 16"](#)

- M3 Pro Chip. 12-Core CPU, 18 Core GPU,
- 18GB Unified Memory
- 512 GB SSD Storage
- 16-inch Liquid Retina XDR display²
- Three Thunderbolt 4 ports, HDMI port, SDXC card slot, headphone jack, MagSafe 3 port
- Magic Keyboard with Touch ID
- Force Touch Trackpad
- 140W USB-C Power Adapter

Starting at \$2,899.00.

Starting at \$2,299.00 with [Apple for Education](#).

Additional memory (36 GB instead of 18 GB) better supports Music Production, video, motion graphics, 3D, and VR design.

Windows Laptop Option Examples

Windows laptops come in more varieties than Apple computers. We are providing some examples below. Please contact your admissions counselor for additional guidance if needed.

Windows Laptop Minimum Specifications Example

☐ [XPS-13](#)

- 10th Generation Intel Core i7-1065G7 Processor (8MB Cache, up to 3.9 GHz)
- 16 gigs ram
- 1 TB SSD Drive
- Dell ProSupport Plus

Windows laptop Recommended Specifications Example

☐ [New XPS 15 Touch Laptop](#)

- 10th Generation Intel Core i7-10750H (12MB Cache, up to 5.0 GHz, 6 cores)
- 32 gigs ram
- 1 TB SSD Drive
- Dell ProSupport Plus

Recommended Technology

External 2 TB SSD Storage: For backing up compositions, recordings, and other important files

☐ [Transcend 2 TB USB 3.0](#)

Music Computer Lab:

Cornish provides access to a state-of-the-art Music Computer Lab equipped with iMacs, Ableton Live, KORG D1 digital keyboards, studio microphones, and studio headphones.

Important Note:

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Additional Resources:

If you need to purchase music supplies in Seattle, some local options in Seattle include Ted Brown Music and Guitar Center.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to your admissions counselor directly, or email the Admissions Office at:

admission@cornish.edu.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus and seeing the incredible work you will create!