ChatGPT

Responsive Card Dimensions by Breakpoint

- **Small mobile (320–480px):** Cards typically span the full container width (with side margins). For example, Material's grid uses a 16dp margin on 360px screens [1], so a 360px viewport yields ~328px card width. In practice, a mobile card might be on the order of 280–360px wide (full width minus ~16px margins on each side). Height is content-driven; for an icon+text card, ~100–200px is common, but cards usually grow to fit their text rather than having a strict fixed height.
- **Tablet (768–1024px):** Many designs switch to a multi-column layout (often 2–3 cards per row). Material Design's responsive grid steps up to 24dp side margins around this range [2]. On a 768px-wide tablet, a two-column layout in an ~720px container yields ~300–350px per card. On larger tablets (up to 1024px), you might fit 3 columns in a ~960px content area, giving each card ~300px width. Heights remain flexible, but ensure enough padding so text is legible.
- **Desktop (≥1280px):** Desktop layouts typically use wider grids (12-column grids with larger margins). Material Design's "medium" breakpoint (1024–1439px) uses 12 columns and 24dp margins [3]. In a ~1200px container, fitting 3–4 cards per row gives ~250–350px width per card (or even ~200–250px for 5 columns). In practice, designers often show 3–5 cards per row on desktop. Heights scale with content; many systems cap card width or height with `max-width` but otherwise let cards expand in height as needed.

Internal Padding and Spacing

- **Padding inside cards:** A consistent spacing system is important. Most design systems use an 8px or 16px spacing grid (often a 4px base unit [4] [5]). For example, Shopify Polaris cards have 16px padding around their content by default [6], and Material guidelines specify 16dp (≈16px) left/right padding on mobile card content [7]. In short, use multiples of 4px (commonly 8px or 16px) for card padding so that text and icons have breathing room.
- **Margins and gutters:** Content margins on the page and gutters between cards should also follow the grid. Material's responsive grid uses ~16dp margins on small screens and ~24dp on larger ones [8]. In practice, a ~16px outer margin (padding to screen edge) and ~16–24px gutter between cards works well. (Bootstrap, for example, defaults to a 1.5rem gutter (~24px) between columns.) Consistent gutter spacing ensures cards don't appear cramped.

Layout Grid and Sizing Units

- **Fluid vs. fixed widths:** Modern responsive grids favor fluid sizing (percentages or flex) over fixed pixels. Material Design's grid columns use percentage widths that scale to the viewport [9]. Similarly, Bootstrap cards default to `width: 100%` of their container [10]. In other words, use relative units (%, VW, or CSS grid/flex layouts) so cards adapt across breakpoints. Fixed pixel widths are usually only applied as `min-width` / `max-width` for a container, not hard-set on every card. For example, you might set a `max-width` on a card (e.g. 300–400px) for large screens, but rely on fluid columns (or `auto` sizing) to stack or wrap cards on smaller screens.

Number of Cards per Row (Columns)

- A common responsive pattern is **1 column on phones, 2 on small tablets, and 3–4 (or more) on desktop**. Research and design guidelines note that “on a desktop, you might display four or five cards per row; on a tablet, two or three; and on mobile, a single column” [11] . For example, you might design your grid so that up to ~480px width there is 1 card per row, ~481–1024px has 2–3 cards per row, and above ~1024px shows 3–5 cards per row. The exact breakpoints and counts depend on your design, but a 1-2-4 layout (mobile/tablet/desktop) is a common starting point. Ensure gutters and margins remain consistent at each breakpoint so the layout stays balanced.

Sources: Authoritative design guidelines and UX resources (Material Design, Shopify Polaris, etc.) consistently recommend full-width or fluid cards on mobile, larger multi-column grids on desktop, padding on the order of 8–16px inside cards, and gutters around 16–24px [12] [6] [7] [11] to maintain readability across devices. Each of these values aligns with modern UI frameworks and spacing systems.

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[1] [2] [3] [8] [9] [12] Layout - Responsive layout grid
https://mdc.almoamen.net/layout/responsive-layout-grid

[4] 8 best practices for UI card design | by Anastasia Prokhorova | UX Collective
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[5] Layout
https://shopify.dev/docs/apps/design/layout

[6] Card — Shopify Polaris React
https://polaris-react.shopify.com/components/layout-and-structure/card

[7] Cards - Components - Material Design
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[10] Cards · Bootstrap v5.0
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[11] How Card-Based Layouts Shape Modern UX | Design Shack
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