



Are You Ready for Online Learning?

Technical Requirements

In order to make the most of your online learning experience using our Blackboard learning management system, there are several technical requirements you will need. These requirements are specific to your home computer system. We recommend using Firefox 4.0 or higher as a web browser. Note: We currently use Blackboard 9.1:SP7.

Refer to the guidelines below to help ensure your online success.

	Windows	Macintosh
Operating Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Windows XP, Windows 7, or Vista (Vista Users, please see below.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mac OSX 10.5 "Leopard" , Mac OSX 10.6 "Snow Leopard"
Memory and Processing Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 Gigabytes of RAM and 20 Gigabytes of free disk space on your primary hard drive (usually labeled the "C" drive) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 Gigabytes of RAM and 20 Gigabytes of free disk space on your primary hard drive (usually labeled the "C" drive)
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 28.8 kbps modem (56K Recommended) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 28.8 kbps modem (56K Recommended)
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sound Card & Speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sound Card & Speakers
	At least one of the recommended PC browsers with Java needs to be enabled, although we recommend having two browsers:	At least one of the recommended MAC browsers with Java needs to be enabled, although we recommend having two browsers:
Internet Service Providers (ISPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher (supported) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Netscape Communicator 7.1 (supported)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet Explorer 7.0 (supported) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Netscape Communicator 6.2 (supported)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Netscape Communicator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safari 3.0 (supported for OS X)

	7.1 (supported)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Firefox 4.0 or higher (supported) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safari 3.0 (supported for OS X)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Firefox 3.6 (supported) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safari 4.0 (recommended for OS X)

Vista Users

Blackboard has tested Release 9.1 of the Blackboard Academic Suite with Microsoft Windows Vista using both the Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 Web browser and the Firefox 3.0 Web browser. The results of the testing show that Microsoft Windows Vista is **compatible**.

Compatible configurations are tested by Blackboard and should function as expected. Users that have upgraded to Microsoft Windows Vista should feel comfortable using it with Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox 3.0 to access the Blackboard Academic Suite, Release 9.1.

FAQs :

Do students have to be an expert in computers to take classes online?

No. However students should know the following:

- How to use a computer and trouble shoot basic problems (login, cookies, downloads);
- How to use wireless access, hotspots or Wi-Fi to connect to the Internet;
- How to navigate the Internet and safely access reliable resources;
- How to use standard business software and word processing;
- How to save, retrieve, and transfer files, images, and video;
- How to use data storage devices such as flash drive, external drive, cloud-based drop-boxes, or CDRs;
- How to use collaboration or synchronous applications (Skype, Facetime, IM, GoToMeeting, Bb Collaborate, WebEx).

How much time will I need to devote to my online classes?

It depends. To be on the safe side assume that an online course will require at least the same if not more work and effort as a face-to-face course. Generally, students found they spent more time preparing for online courses than more traditional courses. You should plan to set aside between five and ten hours each week per course to interact, read, and complete online requirements.