



Notebook Computer Requirement for MBA and MSIS Programs

Technology Specifications

Commitment to quality education is a primary objective of the Hankamer School of Business, and since personal computers and wireless networking play an integral role in business, every MBA and MSIS student must have a notebook computer for their graduate business program.

First and foremost, you must have an up-to-date laptop for the program.

- *Do not rely on a work computer as many are subject to security firewalls that prevent downloads and browser plug-ins required for coursework.*
- *Do not rely on a tablet such as Window's Slate. You will run into limitations with any tablet when using Web Conferencing and in using other required programs (such as MegaStats for Excel).*

Before you start your courses, be sure to have secured a notebook computer which meets or exceeds the minimum standards listed below.

Operating System: Windows 10 or Mac OS

Office Suite: Microsoft Office 365 (free download for students)

Applications to arrive with: Adobe Reader and Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome browser.

Applications currently furnished to students: MegaStat (Excel add-in).

Caution: Applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint that run on the Windows platform are used extensively in your business classes. Mac users often run into compatibility issues with data analytics exercises. For this reason, we strongly encourage a Windows computer.

If your computer is less than four-years-old, it likely has the specifications to keep up with your courses. If you are considering purchasing a new computer, or want to estimate how your current computer may fare, you can find Canvas' minimum requirements for online students [here](#). If you find that you need to upgrade your computer, you are eligible for special student pricing on Apple and PC systems through the Baylor Bookstore. Refer to the [Baylor Bookstore page](#) in the previous module for more information.



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Internet: You are required to maintain reliable access to a broadband (DSL, cable, or satellite) internet connection for the entire duration of your courses. A dial-up modem will not be able to handle the multimedia format of our online content. In addition, you will need to ensure you have a browser installed that is compatible with Canvas.

If you expect interruption of internet access that would prevent your daily participation in a course, you should notify your professors immediately.

Canvas: Canvas runs on any device with a modern, compatible web browser, and can be used with Windows, Mac, iOS, or Android operating systems. It is recommended to set Chrome as the default browser on your primary computer since some features of Canvas only work in it. It is also recommended that you install a [back-up browser](#) from the following list on your primary computer and keep it updated.

<https://guides.instructure.com/m/67952/1/720329-which-browsers-does-canvas-support>

Many issues in Canvas can be resolved by switching to a different browser (or updating the current one). If you are having trouble viewing course content, your first troubleshooting step should be to open Canvas in a different browser, followed by contacting [Canvas support](#).

Connectivity: The notebook must be capable of connecting to Baylor's secured wireless network. All classrooms, conference rooms, and team rooms in the Business School have HDMI connections to connect to flat-screen monitors or video projectors. You may need an adapter if your computer has a mini-HDMI or other video port rather than a full sized HDMI slot.

Webcam and Microphone: You will need a webcam and microphone for most online classes. These come standard with many laptops, but it would be prudent to test yours for quality before you begin class. At least one course will require the use of a stand-alone webcam verses an integrated one in a laptop. If this is required, you will be notified to allow plenty of time to purchase or borrow one. Your webcam and mic do not need to be top-of-the-line, but it is recommended that you do a test run recording to ensure that you are satisfied with the quality for submitting to an instructor to be graded on.



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Repair: The classroom environment is relatively hard on your notebook computer. The wear and tear of carrying the notebook around daily, turning it on and off, connecting and disconnecting from the Baylor network can cause many students to experience hardware failure or significant software problems. Since you will use your computer every day, be prepared if your computer breaks. Know your warranty and repair policies. An on-campus hardware repair shop in the Baylor Bookstore is available to students for a fee.

Support: You can seek support from the University. Baylor's Electronic Library provides academic technology support and services for students. You can find resources for students including support, repair, and software at this website:

<https://www.baylor.edu/library/techpoint/index.php?id=860070>.