

Student Computing Requirements

Dear Student ,

We hope this note finds you well. As you are preparing for the start of the Fall 2020 semester, we want to remind you of our student computing requirements. These requirements will be particularly important as we prepare for a largely remote instruction and learning modality this Fall due to COVID-19.

Student Computing Requirements

To help ensure students are equipped for academic success, UMBC requires all undergraduate students to be technologically self-sufficient. Minimally this requires students to have a reliable personal computer (preferably a laptop) and Internet access.

What are the Recommended Computing Specifications?

To assist students in preparing for essential IT needs, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) provides a wealth of resources and support, including minimum specifications to consider when purchasing a computer and tips for getting online. To learn more, visit doit.umbc.edu/students.

Can Financial Aid be Used to Address Student Computing Needs?

Yes, financial aid can be used to purchase computer equipment needed to meet these requirements. Students with questions are encouraged to contact their [financial aid counselor](#).

What If I Am Unable to Access a Personal Computer or Internet?

In partnership with the Albin O. Kuhn Library, DoIT offers a limited supply of loaner laptops for short-term emergency use. For more information about how to request a loaner laptop, visit the [Laptop Loan Program](#).

Normally, all students would enjoy robust [WiFi Internet connectivity](#) on campus. However, due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, 90 percent of UMBC courses will be offered online in Fall 2020. For remote learning, reliable Internet is essential. On the doit.umbc.edu/students website are resources for getting online that are cost effective. In addition to these resources, there are many public spaces with Internet. Students are encouraged to always use the [Virtual Private Network](#) (VPN) to emulate a secure, campus connection.

What If I Have Additional Computing Hardware or Software Questions?

In addition to the doit.umbc.edu website, students should check out the "Computing and Technology" Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at umbc.edu/go/comptech. Still can't find what you're looking for or need more help? Then, submit a "[Request Tracker](#)" (RT) help ticket at my.umbc.edu/help or contact the Technology Support Center (TSC) at doit.umbc.edu/tsc to speak with someone live.

We wish you a successful Fall semester.

Jack Suess
Vice President, Information Technology

Did you find this helpful?

Yes

No