



Masters of Science in Business Analytics
Student Laptop Requirements

The Masters of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) Program requires extensive computing and you must have a laptop with commensurate capabilities. You are making a significant investment in your education by pursuing a business analytics degree and so it is wise to support that investment by ensuring that your computer’s capabilities permit you to complete all coursework in a timely fashion. This document gives guidance to ensure that your existing computer or a new computer that you may purchase will enable your success in the MSBA Program. Requirements for a laptop computer are outlined later in this document, but these points summarize the general content of this document:

- Please pay close attention to the laptop requirements below: a computer that does not meet the requirements listed below will either run slow or not at all.
- It is mandatory that you have a laptop that runs the Microsoft Windows operating system natively because:
 - Some software used in the MSBA program will run only on a Windows operating system
 - Mac/Apple laptops are not currently produced with NVIDIA graphics cards, which are required for neural networks in the Artificial Intelligence course
- If your computer is more than two years old or does not meet the minimum specifications in the following table, then we highly recommend that you replace it: older computers will be a continual source of frustration and, possibly, prevent you from completing assignments on time.
- To eliminate possible security and software conflicts, it is highly recommended that your Windows environment be dedicated for Mason School coursework only, and not also used for personal or business purposes.

Computer Requirements Specifications

Computer Attribute	Minimum Specifications	Recommended
Processor	Intel i7 2.6 GHz, 64-bit, 4 cores	Intel i7 3.0+ GHz, 64-bit, >= 4 cores
RAM	8 GB	16 GB
Hard Drive Capacity	750 GB	1 TB
Graphics Card	NVIDIA Graphics Card from the list on the web page below: http://www.developer.nvidia.com/cuda-gpus#collapse4	
Wireless Connectivity	802.11 bgn	
Ethernet Wired Connection	Yes	
Ethernet Cable	Yes 3-ft or 6-ft Ethernet cables are available at a low cost.	
Operating System	64-bit Windows 10	



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Checking Your Current Computer Specifications

You can view your current computer specifications for processor, graphics card, RAM, and hard drive capacity to compare them to the requirements in the table above by following these instructions, <http://bit.ly/1ribf8W> (for Windows 10 operating systems). In Windows 10, you may also navigate to the Device Manager by typing “Device Manager” in the Windows search bar (typically in lower left-hand corner of desktop screen).

Ethernet Connection

Many current “slim” laptops do not have Ethernet cable ports. If this is true of your laptop, then you can purchase an external Gigabit USB Ethernet adaptor at low cost. While you can successfully complete the program without an Ethernet port, it will be extremely useful in many cases when you are downloading software in class, while your classmates are all doing the same.

New Computer Purchase

Laptop computers running Windows natively which meet the minimum specifications above are available at a relatively low cost. The recommended machine, which we have negotiated through Dell, is [here](#).

If you purchase a new computer, then do not purchase Microsoft Office 365 or a resident installation of Microsoft Office. Microsoft Office will be available to you free of charge when you arrive at the Mason School via this link: <http://office.wm.edu>.

Technology Services Contact Information

The contact information for the technology help desk is as follows:

e-mail: help@mason.wm.edu
Phone 757-221-3401
Office: Miller Hall Room 2012
Hours: Monday - Friday (except holidays)
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.