

Check Your Computer Requirements

Review the following items to ensure that your technology is ready when classes begin!

In order to participate in your classes, you will need access to a computer that meets at least the [basic computer specifications for the Learning Management System Canvas](#). In addition to the items listed below, you may be required to use additional programs as part of a specific course. All computers should have the below specifications (at a minimum).

- Dell PC with latest Windows operating system.
- Intel i7 2.6 GHz, 64-bit, 4 cores
- 750 GB Hard Drive
- 8 GB RAM
- NVIDIA Graphics Card ([CUDA-enabled](#))
- Speakers or headphones, microphone and webcam for video responses, office hours and assignments
- [Microsoft Office](#)
- [Acrobat Reader](#)
- [Zoom](#)

Check Your Internet Speed and Browser

Canvas strongly recommends a broadband connection with a minimum speed of 1 Mbps.

Your online course room is optimized for Google Chrome, so we recommend that you download the latest version of [Google Chrome](#).

Bookmark Resources

Canvas is the official learning management system for your online program. To prepare for your courses, bookmark the following website: [Canvas Student Guide](#)

Computer Minimum Versus Recommended

A computer that does not meet the minimum requirements will either run slow or not at all.

Computer Attribute	Minimum	Recommended
Processor	Intel i7 2.6 GHz, 64-bit, 4 cores	Intel i7 3.0+ GHz, 64-bit, >= 4 cores (or better)
RAM	8 GB	16 GB (or better)
Hard Drive	750 GB	1 TB (or better)
Graphics Card	NVIDIA Graphics Card (CUDA-enabled) from these resources: Resource 1 Resource 2	
Wireless Connectivity	802.11 bgn	
Operating System	64-bit Windows 10	
Monitor	Recommend second monitor	

The Online 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 on the previous page in this document, but these points summarize the general content of this document:

- 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, 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.

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](#). In Windows 10, you may also navigate to the Device Manager by typing "Device Manager" in the Windows search bar which is 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](#).

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

Monday–Friday (except holidays)

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.