

USF Fall 2020 Student Computer Requirements

Staying current with productivity technology is an important part of your education, and your future professional life. These requirements are effective before beginning the Fall 2020 term at USF. You will need access to and use of the hardware and software listed below. If you are not able to meet the requirements of this list, please contact the Dean of Students at mrockafellow@stfrancis.edu.

Hardware and Peripherals

*Please note: Attempted use of **smartphones, tablet devices and/or Chromebooks** for any USF coursework, email or internet communications activities is not advised as these particular devices are not always compatible with USF learning and computer networking standards.*

You need access to a **desktop computer or laptop computer** with the following:

- A processor of 2 GHz or faster
- 6 GB RAM or greater
- A high-speed internet connection with a connection speed of 1.5 MB/s or better.
 - *The use of satellite and cellular connections may result in slowness or errors (timeouts, access problems) when accessing classroom and course materials, and other audiovisual internet communications tools.*
 - *The use of public access computers and internet (for example, at restaurants and public institutions) may result in slowness or errors (timeouts or access problems) when accessing the classroom and course materials. Public access computers may not permit any access to certain course materials or systems due to security limitations.*
- Monitor and video card with 1024x768 or greater resolution
- Separate keyboard and mouse as needed
- Speakers/ and Microphone
 - A headset (noise-cancelling headset is recommended)
 - *Please note: Public access areas may not permit usage of speakers, headphones or microphones.*
- A web camera capable of video web conferencing
 - *Public access areas may not permit usage of web cameras.*

Software and applications

You will need access to Microsoft Windows or Apple Mac OS and familiarity with the following items:

Operating System:

OPERATING SYSTEM	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED
Microsoft® Windows	Windows 7	Windows 10 or higher
Apple® MacOSx	MacOSx 10.10	Latest version

Microsoft® Windows may be required for some technology courses.

Web browser:

BROWSER	SUPPORT
Mozilla Firefox	Supported (preferred)
Apple Safari	Supported (preferred)
Microsoft® Edge	Supported
Google Chrome	Supported
Internet Explorer	Not Supported

Please note that newer browser versions incorporate security fixes and newer technologies that may often lead to a better user experience. Current browser versions are highly recommended when the option is available.

Other browsers (e.g., Dolphin, Opera, etc.) may be used with our services, but self-testing of features before use in real time is advised.

Additional Software

- Microsoft Office or later for a personal computer (PC or Mac). Microsoft Office can be downloaded for free at office.stfrancis.edu.
- An up to date installation of Adobe Reader
- An up to date installation of the Adobe Flash plug-in
- Local administrative privileges to operating system may be required to allow for installation of software and/or configure computer settings
- Various video communication tools as described by instructor

*Please note: This document does not list **all** of the software you may be required to access and/or purchase for your courses. Your instructor will alert you to any additional software needs at the beginning of your coursework.*

Mobile App Versions of Desktop Software

Students are required to have reliable access to a PC or Mac. Phone and tablet devices have different operating systems versus most laptop and desktop computers. Apps for USF online software tools are available for phone and tablet devices, but functionality on these apps is limited in comparison to what is available on laptop and desktop computers.

Please note: Downloading apps for all online video communications tools to your own mobile device is a good idea as an emergency backup, but regular use of mobile apps instead of computer access is not advised.

Computer Accessibility

All students need access to a computer for success in their coursework. The operating systems on most computers already have some features that include the following accessibility technologies:

- Changing font size
- Changing size of desktop icons
- Magnification of portions of your screen
- Converting text to speech
- Altering background color
- Captioning for audio
- Speech recognition

Accessibility for operating systems

Both Microsoft and Apple provide additional accessibility guides, tutorials, and tips for use on your computer. Visit the [Microsoft](#) or [Apple](#) website for information beyond the documents provided here. Students may contact the [Academic Resource Center](#) for questions about accommodations.