

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

DISTANCE LEARNING

Minimum Technical Requirements for Online Classes

Students interested in taking classes online through MSSU Online should have reliable access to a desktop or laptop computer with the following minimum specifications:

PC Configuration

- 1.5 GHz CPU or greater
- minimum 1GB of RAM
- minimum 40GB hard drive space
- network adapter: LAN (Ethernet) or wireless (Wi-Fi) 802.11b or g minimum/802.11n recommended
- DSL, satellite or cable high-speed Internet connection*
- CD/DVD drive, webcam and speakers may be required; refer to course requirements
- Windows Vista, 7 or 8 64 bit configuration preferred (Windows XP is being phased out so no longer recommended)

MAC Configuration

- 1 GHz CPU or greater
- with minimum 1 GB RAM
- minimum 40GB hard drive space
- network adapter: LAN (Ethernet) or wireless (Wi-Fi) 802.11b or g minimum/802.11n recommended
- DSL, satellite or cable high-speed Internet connection*
- CD/DVD drive, webcam and speakers may be required; refer to course requirements
- Macintosh OS 10.6 "Snow Leopard" , Mac OSX 10.7 "Snow Lion" or higher preferred

NOT Recommended when taking classes at MSSU Online:

- Dial up internet connection – many of our courses are designed with multi-media rich content such as videos that will not display properly on a dial up connection.
- 3G & 4G cellular connections - cellular connections are not reliable enough to do certain things in Blackboard, such as taking tests. You may be able to participate in a discussion board, view grades, or videos. Students should NOT expect to take courses entirely on a cellular connection to the internet.
- iPads and other tablets – again are a great supplement but are still somewhat unreliable for taking tests online through Blackboard. You may be able to participate in discussion boards and do some homework but may not be acceptable as the ONLY device you are using.

Supported Browsers

It is recommended to have at least 3 of these if not all installed on your computer. Often, if something online won't work in one browser it will work in another.

- Internet Explorer 10.0 or higher with Javascript and cookies enabled
- Firefox 21 or higher
- Chrome 27 or higher
- Safari 6 or higher

Software

In addition to several Internet browsers, Distance Learning also recommends the following software:

- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel – provided as a web app through SkyDrive with your student email account
- Java Plug-in
- QuickTime
- RealPlayer
- Flash Player
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (for PDF files)

Additional Recommendations:

Access to a printer is recommended for printing things like the course syllabus and certain handouts. Some classes may require a webcam and microphone.

* Some classes are more media rich than others. If the course uses additional publisher lab content, or is heavily based on video tutorials they may require a higher internet speed to operate at optimum performance. You may still be able to access and participate at slower speeds, but it may be problematic.