

# Computer Hardware and Software Guidelines

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## General Recommendations

- **Processor** - Student computers should have a Pentium IV processor, with a processor speed of 800 MHz.
- **RAM** - Computer memory is directly affected by how many programs are running at any given time. Running multiple applications at once slows a computers performance. We recommend students have at least 4GB of RAM installed.
- **Sound** - A working sound card and speakers will be required. Some programs may require a headset and microphone.
- **Modem** - A 56 Kbps modem may be used; we recommend using a high-speed connection such as DSL or a cable modem.
- **Disk Drive** - A CD-Rom drive may be required for some software installation, or access to Cloud Storage.
- **Printer** - Many students find having access to a printer important. Although all material can be accessed online, you may feel more comfortable having hard copies of your syllabus and other course material.
- **Disk Space** - 2 GB of disk space is required for software installation.

## Operating System

	Minimum	Recommended
<b>Microsoft® Windows</b>	Windows 7	Windows 8 or higher
<b>Apple® MacOSx</b>	MacOSx 10.9	MacOSx 10.10 or higher

## Internet Browser

Firefox is recommended for viewing all online courses in e-Learning®. Other internet browsers that could be used include Chrome, Edge, and Safari. [Download Firefox for free now!](#) Remember to keep your browsers up-to-date.

## Word Processor

A word processor is required for almost every online course. Microsoft Word is recommended but if you do not have access to Microsoft we recommend using the free software provided by [Google Docs](#).

## Plug-ins

The following free pug-ins are recommended: [Adobe Reader](#) and [JavaScript](#). As well, you may need to install more than one media player such as: [Macromedia Flash Player](#), [Shockwave Player](#), [QuickTime Player](#), [RealOne Player](#), and [Windows Media Player](#).

## Internet Connection

**You will need regular and uninterrupted access to the internet for your online course.** High-speed internet, such as DSL or cable is strongly recommended. Your internet connection is critical for viewing and handing in your course requirements.

## Your personal computer

The above recommendations are for your own **personal computer or laptop**. All computers located on the Washington County Community College Campus already have the recommended requirements.

To install software on your own computer you must have administrative rights. If someone else helped you set-up your computer or laptop make sure they give you any passwords they created to protect your computer.