



Recommended Student Off-Campus Computing Requirements

Internet Connectivity:

Consistent and reliable access to a high-speed (i.e. cable / DSL) Internet connection is strongly recommended, particularly for distance, hybrid, and heavily computer-mediated courses. Slower modem connections via telephone lines (56K modems) may result in frustration with the amount of time it takes to remain productive online.

Computer Hardware / Operating System:

- Mac or Windows PC with a minimum of 1 GB of RAM; 2 GB preferred (2 GB of RAM minimum for Windows 7)
- Computer speakers to listen to audio content
- Webcam to participate in course-related video conferencing
- PC Operating System - Windows XP or higher
- Mac Operating System - OS 10.5 or higher

Older operating systems and computers with less memory (RAM) and processing power may function and meet your basic needs for computing. However, they may not be adequate to access Antioch's online resources.

Office Productivity Software:

Any word processing program that saves and opens text files and that saves in multiple file formats (Antioch University recommends that faculty and students trade files in DOC format to prevent incompatibilities). A good choice for students in general is a current office suite package, such as Microsoft Office, that includes word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and other useful software. Some new computer purchases have this software already installed. NOTE: Microsoft Office suites are currently used at most AU campuses.

Some options are listed below.

- **Office Professional Academic for AU students (\$99.95):**
<http://www.microsoftstore.com/store/msstore/cat/parentCategoryID.37826100/categoryID.55981100>
- **Open Office 3:** The free and open productivity suite, available at:
<http://www.openoffice.org/>
- **GoogleDocs:** Free online documents creation capabilities, start by clicking 'Documents' near the top of the page of your Antioch Email account or logging into to your Antioch Email account and going to: <https://docs.google.com/a/antioch.edu/#home>

Note on Hand-Held and Tablet Devices:

Most hand-held and tablet devices (i.e. Samsung Galaxy S II, Apple iPad 2) capable of displaying web pages will allow you to view the content of many AU systems. Capabilities of these devices vary widely; particularly in their ability to interface with some AU systems (i.e. iPad and iPad 2 cannot view Flash content or input text easily via the Text Editor in Sakai). Contact the IT Department at 1-866-662-0056 (24/7 support) or <http://helpdesk.antioch.edu> if you have questions about the compatibility of your device with AU's systems.

Internet Browsers:

Most of AU's technologies are accessible through a web browser, so having a supported browser on your home computing system is critical. Antioch supports the following browsers:

- Internet Explorer 8 (PC)
- Firefox 3.5 or higher (PC, Mac)
- Google Chrome 7.0 or higher (PC, Mac)
- Safari 5.0 or higher (Mac)

Browser Plugins / Players:

There are many freely-available adjunct programs that enhance the home computing environment, especially when using the Internet for academic work. It is important that you keep these programs up to a current level in order to view material that faculty and students may be producing this year. Some free software you may want to install:

- **Adobe Acrobat X (version 10.0):** For viewing PDF documents, and available for free download on the internet at: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- **QuickTime Player X (version 10.0):** For playing multimedia files, podcasts, and streaming video, latest version available at: <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/index.html>
- **Windows Media Player (version 11 for Windows Vista, XP, version 12 for Windows 7):** For playing multimedia files, available at: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/downloads/windows-media-player>
- **Adobe Flash Player (version 11):** For playing animations and Adobe Flash web content (multimedia), available at: <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
- **RealPlayer (version 15):** For playing specific streaming media, available at: <http://www.real.com/> - Look for the FREE RealPlayer download.

Anti-Virus / Computer Protection:

AU urges that you take steps to prevent viruses and other malware from infecting your educational home computing environment. Again, it is critical that you keep your anti-virus and spyware protection software updated to the latest definition files through your provider of choice. Here are some programs that our IT staff recommends:

Anti-Virus Protection

- **Avast! Home Edition**, available free at: <http://www.avast.com/free-antivirus-download>
- **Microsoft Security Essentials**, available free at: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/security-essentials>
- **Norton Anti-Virus Version 2012 (19.0)**, available at: <http://www.symantec.com/norton/antivirus>
- **McAfee Virus ScanPlus**, available at: <http://home.mcafee.com/Store/>

Malware / Spyware Protection

- **AdAware**, available at <http://www.lavasoft.com>
- **SpyBot Search & Destroy**, available at: <http://www.safernetworking.org/en/index.html>