

**Southwest Baptist University**  
**Department of Online Learning**  
**Center for Teaching and Learning**  
**Computer System Basic Requirements**  
**(03.18)**

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the SBU Helpdesk at **417-328-1702** or [helpdesk@sbuniv.edu](mailto:helpdesk@sbuniv.edu). Content of this page is subject to change without notice. Please contact the SBU Helpdesk if you have specific questions.

**Internet Requirements**

**Recommended Internet Speed:** 1.5 Mbps or higher

**DSL - Digital Subscriber Line** (DSL) services come in various grades. It is recommended to use a 3 Mbps downstream/384 Kbps upstream or better DSL connection. Contact your service provider to find out the speeds available. The faster the connection, the better your online course experience will be.

**PC Systems:**

**Hardware: (minimum)**

- ✓ Operating System: Windows 7 or 8
- ✓ CPU: 1.8 GHz
- ✓ Memory: 4GB RAM
- ✓ Hard Drive: 1-2GB MB free space
- ✓ Monitor: 800x600 16-bit color display or better
- ✓ Sound Card
- ✓ Speakers

**Hardware: (recommended)**

- ✓ Operating System: Windows 7, 8 or 10
- ✓ CPU: 2.3 GHz
- ✓ Memory: 6-8 GB DDR3 RAM
- ✓ Hard Drive: 250 GB (2 GB free)
- ✓ Monitor: 800x600 16-bit color display or better
- ✓ DVD-ROM **or** CD-RW/DVD-Rom Combo (not required, but recommended)
- ✓ Sound Card
- ✓ Speakers
- ✓ Webcam/mic (not required, but recommended)

## Software Requirements:

**Microsoft Office 2003 or higher** - [Microsoft Office](#) 2003 or higher version is required.

**Audio and Video** – Most of the audio and video in the online courses are embedded and streamed with no need for any special viewer. In the event you encounter an item that may require an additional player, you may consider one of these free players:

The following free applications are required for viewing audio/video media:

- Windows Media Player
- Flash plugin [Flash](#)
- Silverlight plugin [Silverlight](#)
- QuickTime 7 - PC users can download QuickTime [here](#).
- iTunes - [Download iTunes](#) (Mac users will already have iTunes loaded on their system)
- Java Plug-in – PC users must download the latest Java plug-in [here](#).

**Adobe Acrobat Reader** – You should be able to view PDF files. To do so make sure to secure the latest free [Adobe Reader](#) version if you don't already have a reader.

**Software Firewalls and Filters** - All of the popular software firewalls and parental filters can be configured for conferencing software, but because of the variations between software brands, updates, and home networks, we do not provide any assistance with this configuration. They all come with adequate documentation to support configuring them for any application.

**Pop-up Blockers** – Your Internet browser should allow pop-ups from: \*.sbuniv.edu

**Cookies enabled** – Cookies should be enabled for your course experience.

## Macintosh Systems:

### Hardware: (minimum)

- Operating System: Mac OS 10.9+
- Memory: 4GB RAM
- Hard Drive: 1-2GB free space
- Monitor: 800x600 16-bit color display or better

### Hardware: (recommended)

- Operating System: Mac OS 10.10+
- CPU: Mac computer with an Intel processor
- Memory: 6GB RAM
- Hard Drive: 250 GB (2 GB free)
- Monitor: 800x600 16-bit color display or better
- DVD-ROM **or** CD-RW/DVD-Rom Combo (not required, but recommended)
- Webcam/mic (not required, but recommended)

## **Software Requirements**

- **Java Plug-in** - Java for Macintosh is a part of Apple's software updates. Please ensure your Mac has the latest software updates.
- **Video Lan Client (VLC)** - Allows Mac users to play windows media files. Not required but you can secure if need. [Download here](#).

**Please Note:** Some audio/video files may be provided in MP3 or MP4 format to make them capable for downloading to mobile devices such as an MP3/4 player or tablet, but individual devices are not supported by SBU. Students should seek assistance from the device manufacturer should they require assistance with the videos playing on a specific device.

### **Supported Operating Systems and Browsers (Blackboard)**

Please engage the SBU browser checker once you enter the Blackboard learning environment.