

Minimum Computer Requirements – 2020-2021

All incoming students and/or any current student replacing a laptop at BCM are required to have a laptop computer commencing August 2020. In addition to testing, the laptops will prove useful in accessing Baylor College of Medicine's resources, the TMC Library, digital recordings of lectures and other instructional resources. The classes that you take at BCM are paperless; therefore, you must have a computer to access class materials including course notes, presentations and classroom recordings. In addition, most exams at BCM are administered over wireless networks at the College. Many students use both a laptop and a tablet – the laptop for note-taking and the tablet for study on the go.

Most laptops purchased in the last three years will be more than adequate for the exam testing applications with the possible exception of adequate RAM. It is recommended that consideration be given to upgrading the computer's RAM to at least 8 GB.

The campus has no preference for a particular computer manufacturer provided the computer supports either the Windows or Macintosh operating systems. Students at Baylor College of Medicine are required to provide their own laptops for these examinations. Please do not buy a Chrome Netbook because it will NOT work for your wireless exams

The minimum technical requirements of the laptop (*current as of May 2020*) are as follows:

	Windows Based Specifications	MacOS Based Specifications
Operating System	Windows 10, or higher	MacOS 10.15 (Catalina) or higher
Processor	Intel Core i5 or equivalent 8 GB of RAM, 250 Gb hard drive (SSD Recommended)	
Camera/Webcam & Mic	A USB webcam or integrated camera & mic are required for online learning	
Screen Size	No smaller than 13" 1024x768 minimum resolution with 32-bit color	
Wireless Capabilities	Compatible with 802.11 a/g/n <i>The Baylor Enterprise Wireless Network requires the use of the Cisco PEAP protocol for authentication and encryption. Wireless access is now achieved by the proper configuration of the Wi-Fi utility included in Windows & Apple operating systems.</i>	
Applications	Microsoft O365 <i>Once you officially become a Baylor student you will qualify for a number of student discount programs. These will be presented to you at student orientation from IT in your first week on campus.</i>	
Peripherals	LAN Dongle if you do not have a full-size network socket A working USB port (Newer devices may require an adaptor)	
Web Browser	<i>Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome</i>	
Apple iPad	<i>iPadOS 13 or higher and must not be Jailbroken Hardware recommendations = iPad 5+, iPad Air + and iPad Pro *iPads are supported in course exams, but NOT exams taken with ExamMonitor <u>Are NOT intended to take the place of a laptop.</u></i>	
Netbooks, Tablets, & Chromebooks are <u>NOT</u> supported for online exams *Refer to each individual school's policy about these devices* <i>These requirements are based upon our experience with National Board of Medical Examiners online examinations that we now administer. Laptops with lower capability are not suitable.</i> <i>Microsoft Surface devices - Surface Pro, Surface Books, and Surface Laptops are supported</i> <i><u>(Non-Pro Surface devices are NOT supported for any College in the Institution)</u></i>		

A word about mobile devices...

Tablets and smartphones are amazingly useful learning tools, although they are not a replacement for a laptop computer. Many of the on-line educational resources available at BCM and elsewhere are accessible via these mobile devices.

If you need to purchase a new laptop...

We include in every first-year student's financial aid allocation \$2,000, which can be used to purchase a new laptop computer. If you already own a computer or can purchase a computer or an upgrade for less than \$2,000, you should decline all or part of your financial aid allocation so you borrow only what you need. Be aware that half of your financial aid award is available in August and half in January.

Remote Internet Access

A high-speed internet connection (cable modem, fiber or DSL) is required of all medical students to access BCM curriculum resources off-campus.

Many course materials, including streaming video files, are accessible through the College's electronic course support system and Blackboard. Streaming video does not display over a dial-up line. Many course materials contain images that download more quickly and efficiently over a high-speed connection. Please carefully explore your ISP solution. No matter which one you choose, we strongly suggest that you look closely at their reputation for reliability and customer support (not just price).

For further technical information or questions, please contact:

Education Technology at ed-tech@bcm.edu