



OHSU School of Nursing Student Computer Requirements

The OHSU School of Nursing relies on the use of computers for many student activities both in the classroom and online using the Internet. All students, new incoming and currently enrolled, are expected to meet the current hardware and software requirements. This is to ensure that students will be able to collaborate with both faculty and peers and be able to complete the many activities required during their program.

The hardware requirements listed in this document are for new, incoming students. These are MINIMUM requirements. Most new computers exceed these requirements, and that is fine. Meeting these minimum requirements is essential, as computer resources on campus are limited. Students who have computers and Internet access should be able to successfully complete any student activities required by faculty for their courses. Currently enrolled students should compare their computer's specifications to the minimum specification required of new students. If the computer is not close to meeting the new requirements, students should upgrade components or replace their computer.

The software requirements listed in this document are mandatory for ALL students. If you find that your software has not been updated in a number of years, this is the time to invest in getting it updated so that you can participate in all the required activities. Considering the cost to upgrade software is often in the hundreds of dollars, it is often less expensive to buy a new computer with the new software already installed than it is to purchase individual copies of upgraded software.

Laptops vs. Desktops

The School of Nursing encourages the use of laptop computers for on-campus students. They are easily used when working with fellow students in groups and for classroom presentations. All OHSU campuses have wireless networking capabilities at various access points around campus. These usually include libraries, cafes, and most classrooms. Popular laptops and tablets include Dell (www.dell.com), MPC (www.buympc.com), and HP (www.hp.com).

Recommended Minimum Hardware Configuration:

Speed: 1.5 GHz/

Memory: 1 GB preferred

Hard Drive: 80 GB preferred

Networking: Wireless card for laptops, Ethernet card for direct connection to cable/DSL

1 CD/DVD player (read capability required, read and write capability preferred)

2 USB ports

Note: You do not need the most expensive computer to get the above configuration. Currently laptops or desktops with the minimum configuration are running between \$400 and \$800.

Software

All Students are required to own and use the following software:

Operating System: Microsoft Windows XP at a minimum (VISTA preferred)

Note: OHSU is primarily a Windows environment. Windows releases prior to XP are not acceptable (95, 98, and 2000). These are all obsolete. The Apple Macintosh (Mac) platform, though now supported, is not as well known by support desk personnel. Additionally, several widely used programs in the school are not compatible with Mac (i.e., End Notes for research, SPSS is always a year behind). If you choose to use a Macintosh machine, be sure you have windows emulation software or virtual machine so you can run part of your MAC with windows applications. You also need to have MAC OS X.4 or higher to be compatible with our email system.

Productivity Software: minimum Microsoft Office 2003 (Office 2007 is preferred) Includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Various university bookstores offer students MS Office at an educational discount price. Check the university nearest you.

Note: If you are running Office 2003, you must download the free file converter from Microsoft to be able to read documents that are sent from a 2007 environment. See:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>

*Microsoft Works, Apple Works and Corel WordPerfect are **NOT** acceptable.*

Browser: Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher (free download from Microsoft.com) **or Firefox 2.0 or higher** (free download from mozilla.com)

Note: The native AOL browser is not acceptable. AOL users must install either Internet Explorer or Firefox to use when accessing online course materials. Additionally, the MAC Safari Browser is not compatible with the OHSU email system. You will need to download Internet Explorer or Firefox to connect to email.

Readers/Viewers:

Adobe Acrobat 8 or newer reader (free download from www.adobe.com) This is used to read many documents in the PDF format.

Real Player (free download at <http://www.real.com/freeplayer/?rppr=rnwk>), This is used to view any streamed video linked to course materials.

Flash Player/Shockwave (free download at <http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download>) This is used to view several interactive components developed with multimedia format. This player usually comes with your Browser software, so you may already have it installed if you are running the browser software versions mentioned above.

Virus Protection Software: Norton Anti-Virus or McAfee Virus Shield – Some cable or DSL companies provide this as part of your broadband service. Check with your Internet Service Provider before purchasing.

Note: Virus Protection software requires that you update it regularly. Thousands of viruses are unleashed every year. The best way to make sure your anti-virus software is updated is to purchase it with a “live update” or “internet update” capability. This means that every time you turn your computer on it will check the Internet to make sure the latest version is downloaded. These software packages with the “live update” feature are running about \$40 per year.

File Transfer and Storage

CDs and Flash Drives (also known as thumb drives or jump drives) are the only two means of file transfer and storage available to students. Both methods retain a great deal of material; however, we recommend using **flash drives** as your primary source of file transfer if you plan to use on-campus computers. Many computers in campus labs do not have CD write capabilities. Flash Drives are compact and easy to use. They plug into a USB port to transfer or view files. Flash Drives easily fit in your purse or wallet. They can also be carried on a keyring or on a lanyard around your neck.

PDA's

Many faculty, staff, students, and healthcare professionals use Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) to manage their calendar and reference information. OHSU provides **partial** support for PDA use on campus. Internet browsing using PDA's, however, is not supported on many of the wireless networks around campus. PDA items are available for purchase and some self-support information may be found at http://helpdesk.ohsu.edu/viewpage.aspx?key_id=1462

In addition to the basic PDA use of calendaring and notes, you will also see Pocket PCs, Palm Pilots of various levels, and Blackberry devices in use. However, it is up to you to manage your own use of these devices if you chose to use them.