

Standard Technical Specifications for Online Education

General Device Requirements:

We strongly recommend a PC running **Windows 11** or a Mac running **macOS 18 (Sequoia)** or **macOS 26 (Tahoe)**. This recommendation generally includes most computers sold within the last 5–6 years.

Please see below for more specific recommendations to ensure your technology meets programmatic needs.

- **Processor (CPU):**
Intel Core i3 / AMD Ryzen 3 minimum; Intel Core i5, AMD Ryzen 5, or Apple M1/M2 (or newer) recommended for multitasking and running course-related applications.
- **Memory (RAM):**
8 GB minimum; 16 GB highly recommended for virtual classrooms, productivity software, and simultaneous use of multiple applications.
- **Storage:**
256 GB SSD (Solid State Drive) minimum. SSDs are strongly preferred over older Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) for faster startup, application performance, and file access.
- **Internet Connection:**
Minimum of 10–25 Mbps download and 3–5 Mbps upload. Wired connections or high-speed Wi-Fi 5/6 networks are recommended over satellite or cellular data connections.
- **Audio/Visual:**
Built-in or external 720p webcam and standard speakers and microphone. Depending on your circumstances and where you will be studying, you might also consider purchasing a pair of headphones.
- **Software:**
An up-to-date operating system (Windows 11 or macOS 18/26) and productivity software, such as **Microsoft 365** and **Adobe Acrobat Suite** (both available at no additional cost to enrolled students).
- **Chromebooks:**
Chromebooks are **strongly discouraged** as a primary device for coursework. Chromebooks cannot run the full desktop versions of software commonly required in courses, including **Microsoft 365 applications**, **Adobe Creative Cloud**, and other institution-provided software.
- **Mobile Devices and Tablets:**
Mobile devices, including smartphones and tablets, may be useful for viewing course

materials or checking announcements, but they should not be your primary device for completing coursework. Some assignments and required software may not function properly on mobile devices or Chromebooks.

- **Online Exam Requirements (DPT only):**

All online exams must be taken using the **latest version of Google Chrome** running on a supported operating system (Windows 11, macOS 18, or macOS 26). Mobile versions of Chrome, including those available on **iPads and Android tablets**, are not supported for exam-taking.

- **Program-specific software:**

Some programs or courses may require specialized software. If additional technology or software is needed, your instructor or program will provide instructions before it is required.

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The recommendations below apply to most MU Online students. If your program requires additional software or equipment, your instructor or program will let you know before you need it.

- **Recommended Computer**

For the best experience, we recommend using:

- A Windows or Mac laptop or desktop computer
- A computer purchased in the last 5-6 years
- The most current version of Windows or macOS

If you're unsure whether your computer is new enough, it probably is if you purchased it within the last several years.

- **Internet Access**

You'll need reliable high-speed internet to:

- Watch course videos
- Participate in virtual meetings
- Submit assignments
- Complete online exams

Whenever possible, use a home internet connection instead of cellular data.

- **Webcam and Microphone**

Some online courses may require students to:

- Participate in virtual meetings
- Record presentations
- Meet with instructors

A built-in webcam and microphone are perfectly fine.

Headphones are also recommended if you'll be studying in a public or shared spaces.

- **Required Software**

Manchester University provides access to several software programs at no additional cost, including:

- o Microsoft 365
- o Adobe Acrobat

Additional software may be required for certain courses or programs. Your instructor will let you know before you need it.

- **Chromebooks and Tablets**

Chromebooks, tablets, and smartphones can be helpful for:

- o Reading course materials
- o Checking announcements
- o Viewing grades

However, they **should not be your primary device** for completing coursework.

Some required software and assignments may not work correctly on these devices.

- **Detailed Technical Specifications (Optional)**

For students who would like additional technical details, the following specifications are recommended:

Component	Recommendation
Operating System	Windows 11 or current macOS
Processor	Intel Core i5, AMD Ryzen 5, or Apple M1/M2 (or newer)
Memory (RAM)	8 GB minimum (16 GB recommended)
Storage	256 GB SSD minimum
Internet Speed	10-25 Mbps download, 3-5 Mbps upload
Webcam	720p or better
Browser	Latest version of Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Safari

2-3 Sentence Version

MU Online students should have access to a reliable Windows or Mac computer, high-speed internet, and a webcam with a microphone. Chromebooks, tablets, and smartphones may be useful for viewing course materials but are not recommended as a primary device for completing coursework. Additional software may be required depending on your program. View our full technology recommendations to make sure your device is ready before classes (link to full specs, either the table or more detailed version at beginning of this document).

