

Minimum Computer Requirements – 2021-2022

All incoming learners and/or any current learner replacing a laptop at BCM are required to have a laptop computer commencing August 2021. 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 learners 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 Apple operating systems. Learners 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 Jan 2021*) are as follows:

	Windows Based Specifications	MacOS Based Specifications
Operating System	Windows 10, or higher certified for use are 1909, 2004 and 20H2	MacOS 11.0 (Big Sur) 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 BCM Learner you will qualify for a number of discount programs. These will be presented to you at 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 14 or higher and must not be Jailbroken</i> <i>Hardware recommendations = iPad 5+, iPad Air + and iPad Pro</i> <i>*iPads are supported in course exams, but NOT exams taken with ExamMonitor</i> <i><u>Are NOT intended to take the place of a laptop.</u></i>	
Netbooks & Chromebooks are <u>NOT</u> supported for online exams *Refer to each individual school’s policy about these devices* <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.

Remote Internet Access

A high-speed internet connection (cable modem, fiber or DSL) is required of all learners 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).

School of Medicine NBME Exams

Netbooks, Tablets & Chromebooks are not supported on licensure exams. These requirements are based upon our experience with National Board of Medical Examiners online examinations that we now administer. Laptops with lower capability are also not suitable.

Click here for [ExamSoft Minimum Computer Requirements](#)

For further technical information or questions, please contact:

Education Technology at ed-tech@bcm.edu