# Minimum Computer Requirements – 2022-2023

All incoming learners and/or any current learner replacing a laptop at BCM are required to have a laptop computer commencing in Fall 2022. 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 Microsoft 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 2022)* are as follows:

| | Windows Based Specifications | macOS Based Specifications |
|---|---|---|
| **Operating System** | *Supported Genuine Versions:* **Windows 10:** *1909, 2004, 20H2* **Windows 11:** *21H2* *"S Mode" is not compatible with ExamSoft* | *Supported Genuine Versions:* *Big Sur (version 11.0) 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** | |
| **Monitor/Screen Size** | **No smaller than 13"** **1280x768 minimum resolution with 32-bit color** *(SOM & SHP: Examplify does not support touchscreen input devices for Mac or PC.)* | |
| **Wireless Capabilities** | **Compatible with 802.11 a/g/n** *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.* | |
| **Applications** | ***Microsoft O365*** *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.* | |
| **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** | *Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome* | |
| **Apple iPad** | *iPadOS 14 or higher and must not be Jailbroken* *Hardware recommendations = iPad 5+, iPad Air 2+ and iPad Mini 4+* *\*iPads are supported in course exams, but NOT exams taken with **ExamMonitor** Are NOT intended to take the place of a laptop.* | |
| ***Netbooks & Chromebooks are NOT supported for online exams*** ***\*Refer to each individual school's policy about these devices\**** *Microsoft Surface devices - Surface Pro, Surface Books, and Surface Laptops are supported* *(Non-Pro Surface devices are NOT supported for any College in the Institution)* | | |

**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**:
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