



Working with computer technology is an important doorway to your journey at University of Northwestern – St. Paul. The computer requirements listed here are intended to help you be as successful as possible. Most new computers purchased in the past two years meet these requirements.

Although most courses could be completed using a Netbook, tablet, or other mobile device, some may require greater capabilities. You should have a laptop or desktop computer and be familiar with its operation before the first day of class.

A working knowledge of Microsoft Office (2007 or later) is also required and will help you complete coursework efficiently. Microsoft Office is available in the Campus Store at academic pricing.

Your computer should have high-speed Internet access and a standard Internet browser (Internet Explorer 9 or higher, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari). Common technology tasks required for most courses include e-mailing, adding attachments, uploading/downloading files, searching, applying safe online practices, viewing video or Flash-based media, and installing basic software/plugin.

Most courses require some basic keyboarding skills, the ability to find and evaluate Internet information and handle it with academic honesty, and the ability to develop a presentation. Let your admission counselor know if you have any questions regarding these abilities.

Hardware Requirements

- **High Speed Internet connection:** Some courses have regular video viewing requirements (you may want to be aware of any bandwidth limits set by your Internet Service Provider)
- **Computer:** Laptop or personal computer (students are encouraged to bring laptops/mobile devices for class activities)
- **Some courses may require a DVD/CD drive**
- **Portable Storage:** A USB flash drive may be used in some on-site courses for transferring large files in class time
- **Some courses may require a microphone and/or webcam**

You may visit www.dell.com/nwc to receive educational discounts.

Software Requirements

- **Operating System:** Windows XP, Windows 7 or Mac OS X (10.5 or greater)
- **Antivirus:** An up-to-date antivirus client with active subscription is required for Windows in order to connect to the Internet while on campus. Students may receive Symantec Antivirus Client for free if you do not have one. You might also consider installing AVG Free at <http://free.avg.com>.
- **Office Suite:** Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint and sometimes Excel 2007 or later). A working knowledge of this software is required prior to enrolling in your program.