

Minimum Computer System Requirements

<http://ualr.edu/blackboard/welcome/system-requirements/>

The following minimum hardware and software requirements are necessary in order to access an online class through Three Rivers' current version of Blackboard. Individual instructors may have additional requirements for specific classes. Be sure to check your course syllabus and discuss technology needs with your instructor as early in the class as possible.

System Requirements

	Minimum	Recommended
Operating System	Windows Xp, Vista, 7, or 8 Mac OSX 10.5, 10.6, 10.7	Windows 7, or 8 Mac OSX 10.6 or 10.7
Processor	1 GHz processor	2 GHz or faster
Memory	512 MB of RAM	2 GB of RAM or higher
Monitor Resolution	1024 x 768	1024 x 768 or higher
Free Hard Disk Space	5 GB of free disk space	20 GB or higher of free space
Internet Connection	Broadband (high-speed) Internet connection with a consistent minimum speed of 512 kbps.	Broadband (high-speed) Internet connection with a speed of 1.5 Mbps or higher
Internet Browser	IE8, IE9, Safari 4+, Chrome or Firefox	IE9 and Firefox
Java	The most up to date version of Java is required to use Blackboard.	
Macromedia Flash Player	Flash is required to play videos within the Blackboard system. You can download Flash from the Adobe website.	

Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with a stable broadband Internet connection. Any system older than 4 years may not have the processing power to work with our current version of Blackboard and its components.

Free Use of Campus Computers

All Three Rivers networked computers are configured to use Blackboard and will have most software needed to complete online coursework. If additional software is needed on a Three Rivers lab computer, please contact the instructor or facilitator of the lab for assistance.

Operating System

Blackboard was designed to work on Windows and Macintosh based systems. At this time, Linux is not a supported operating system with Blackboard.

Please note, while the minimum allowed Windows operating system is Windows XP, students are strongly advised to use a newer operating system for Windows machines (example: Windows 7, and Windows 8). **Windows 8 is compatible with Blackboard when using your browser through Desktop Mode.**

Internet Connection

To operate optimally, we recommend a high-speed Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, T1, etc.) of at least 512kBps (kilobyte per second) for taking online tests. **Participation in Blackboard courses from a mobile network (3G or 4G network) provider is not advised.**

ALTERNATIVE INTERNET SOURCE:

If your speed is slower than 512kBps, you may need to find an alternative way to access the Internet either by finding a different Internet service provider or using the wireless connection at a public facility (i.e. any Three Rivers center or campus).

DIALUP USERS:

Avoid using a dial-up connection if at all possible. Dial-up may work with Blackboard, but some courses use videos and large file downloads heavily. Check with your instructor to be sure.

Internet Browser

We strongly recommend Blackboard students use the latest version of [Mozilla Firefox](#) for Windows or Mac because it is the most compatible with our current Blackboard system.

Generally, it is a good idea to have multiple browsers installed on your system for a couple of reasons.

First, you always want a plan B. If you are trying to perform time sensitive tasks in Blackboard, you don't want to waste time troubleshooting your browser or downloading a new browser. Having multiple browsers already installed allows you to quickly switch to a different browser when you have a browser related issue.

Microsoft Windows

	Internet Explorer 10	Internet Explorer 9	Internet Explorer 8	Firefox ESR	Firefox (Final Release Channel)	Chrome (Stable Channel)
Windows XP (32-bit)	Unsupported by Microsoft	Unsupported by Microsoft	Compatible	Certified	Compatible	Compatible
Windows Vista (32-bit)	Unsupported by Microsoft	Certified	Compatible	Certified	Certified	Compatible

Windows Vista (64-bit)	Unsupported by Microsoft	Compatible	Compatible	Certified	Compatible	Compatible
Windows 7 (32-bit)	Provisional	Certified	Compatible	Certified	Certified	Certified
Windows 7 (64-bit)	Provisional	Certified	Compatible	Certified	Certified	Certified
Windows 8 (32-bit)	Compatible	Unsupported by Microsoft	Unsupported by Microsoft	Certified	Certified	Certified
Windows 8 (64-bit)	Certified	Unsupported by Microsoft	Unsupported by Microsoft	Certified	Certified	Certified

Apple MAC OS

	Safari 6.0.1	Safari 5.1	Safari 5.0	Safari 4.0	Firefox ESR	Firefox (Final Release Channel)	Chrome (Stable Channel)
Mac OS X 10.6	Unsupported by Apple	Certified	Certified	Compatible	Certified	Certified	Certified
Mac OS X 10.7	Certified (10.7.5)	Certified	Unsupported by Apple	Unsupported	Certified	Certified	Certified
Mac OS X 10.8	Certified (10.8.2)	Certified	Unsupported by Apple	Unsupported	Certified	Certified	Certified

Second, it helps to rule out browser related issues. If you are having problems in one browser and not another, then you know there is something going on with your browser or its settings. If you are having the same problem in multiple browsers, then you'll know that it is either a system issue or something related to Blackboard.

Technologies Not Supported

The following technologies are not supported in the use of the Blackboard course system:

- Internet Explorer 6, 7
- Firefox 1.x, 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, and 3.6
- Safari 2.0, 3.x and any version on Windows
- Windows XP 64-bit
- Mac OS X 10.3, 10.4, 10.5

- Java 5, although it may continue to work

Additional Software and Plugins

Most of the materials you will be accessing in Blackboard will consist of web pages, Microsoft documents or Adobe Acrobat files. However, instructors may choose to upload content in a variety of formats. Below you will find a list of common file types that may be used in Blackboard. The software required to view these files is given and links to downloadable versions of the software have been provided if available.

Application Downloads	File Extensions	PC	Mac
WinZip	.zip • .rar • etc.	Download	n/a
WinRAR	.zip • .rar • etc.	Download	Download
Adobe Acrobat Reader	.pdf	Download	Download
Adobe Flash Player	<i>(needed for Blackboard use)</i>	Download	Download
Java	<i>(needed for Blackboard use)</i>	Download	Download
Open Office	.doc • .docx .ppt • .pptx .xls • .xlsx .rtf • .txt	Download	Download
Microsoft Office	.doc • .docx .ppt • .pptx .xls • .xlsx .rtf • .txt	<i>(Visit the Three Rivers College Bookstore)</i>	<i>(Visit the Three Rivers College Bookstore)</i>
Microsoft Office Viewers			
Word Viewer	.doc • .docx	Download	n/a
PowerPoint Viewer	.ppt • .pptx	Download	n/a
Excel Viewer	.xls • .xlsx	Download	n/a

Video Players	Common File Extensions	PC	Mac
Macromedia Shockwave Player	.fla • .swa • .swf	Download	Download
QuickTime	.mov • .qt	Download	Download
Media Player Classic	.avi • .vlc • .wmv	Download	n/a
VLC Media Player	.avi • .vlc • .wmv	Download	Download

Additional Software	PC	Mac
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Microsoft Security Essentials	Download	n/a
Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Free	Download	n/a


Remember: These are minimum requirements. Your instructor may have additional requirements in order to achieve the learning objectives of your class.

- [Safari \(Mac Users Only\)](#)

Technology Adjustments for Educational Needs


Technology continues to change. As updates are implemented to web browsers it becomes necessary to make some adjustments in order to view your courses. The information below will assist you based on your computer type and browser you are using.

Pop-Up/Spam Blockers

All popup blockers on your computer should be turned off before logging into Blackboard. If they are on you may experience difficulties using Blackboard.  View videos

- [FireFox](#)
- [Internet Explorer](#)
- [Chrome](#)
- [Safari \(Mac Users Only\)](#)

Enhance Your Web Experience

Clear temporary internet files "cache" often. The links below explains how to clear cache on different browsers:  View videos

- [FireFox](#) [Click here](#) for textual help
- [Internet Explorer](#)
- [Chrome](#)

Browser Information During Tests

During a Blackboard tests be aware that:

- If your browsing session lasts longer than 20-30 minutes, click the **SAVE ALL ANSWERS** button at the top or bottom of the page to save your answers to the Blackboard server.
- If you are typing an essay, type it in notepad, then copy/paste the text into the Blackboard window.
- If you encounter any problems while taking a test, email your instructor immediately or after submitting the test.
- **Dial-up Users:** Some Internet Service Providers (ISP) will kick you off the network for inactivity. Once you are logged into Blackboard, your ISP will not recognize further activity, and it may appear that you are inactive. You should check your settings to make sure your time-out settings are set to the maximum allowed time. If you use a dial-up modem to connect to the Internet, turn off call waiting. If you receive a phone call and call waiting is on, Blackboard will assume that you have completed the quiz and erase any answers you have entered.