

# Minimum Computer System Requirements

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Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with a stable broadband Internet connection.

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.

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
<a href="#">Operating System</a>	Windows 7 or higher Mac OSX 10.8 or higher Chrome OS	Windows 10 Mac OSX 10.12
Processor	1 GHz processor	2 GHz or faster
Memory	4GB of RAM	4 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
<a href="#">Internet Connection</a>	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
<a href="#">Internet Browser</a>	Google Chrome 61+ Mozilla Firefox 56+, Internet Explorer 11 (Windows only), Safari 6+ (Mac OSX Only)	Google Chrome (Latest Versions) for Windows and Mac OS
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. <a href="#">You can download Flash from the Adobe website.</a>	

- **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 Systems**

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

Please note, while the minimum allowed Windows operating system is Windows 7, students are strongly advised to use a newer operating system for Windows machines (example: Windows 10,). **Windows 8 is compatible with Blackboard when using your browser through Desktop Mode.**

- **Internet Connections**

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**

Browser	Supported Desktop*		
	Browser Version	PC Version	Mac Version
Chrome	61+	<a href="#">Download Latest</a>	<a href="#">Download Latest</a>
Edge	Not Supported	N/A	N/A
Firefox	56+	<a href="#">Download Latest</a>	<a href="#">Download Latest</a>
Internet Explorer	11 (Windows Only)	<a href="#">Download Latest</a>	N/A
Safari	6+ (Mac OSX Only)	N/A	<a href="#">Download Latest</a>
* Mobile app versions of these browsers are not supported at this time. Although users may have success using them, the Office of Distance Learning does not recommend using them to access our version of Blackboard			

We strongly recommend Blackboard students use the latest version of [Mozilla Firefox](#) or [Google Chrome](#) 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.

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 will 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 through 10
- Firefox 30 and under
- Chrome 35 and under
- Edge - any version
- Safari 2.0, 3.x, 4.x, 5.x and any version on Windows
- Windows XP or Vista, 32 or 64-bit versions
- Mac OSX 10.3 through 10.7
- Java 5, 6, or 7, although they may continue to work

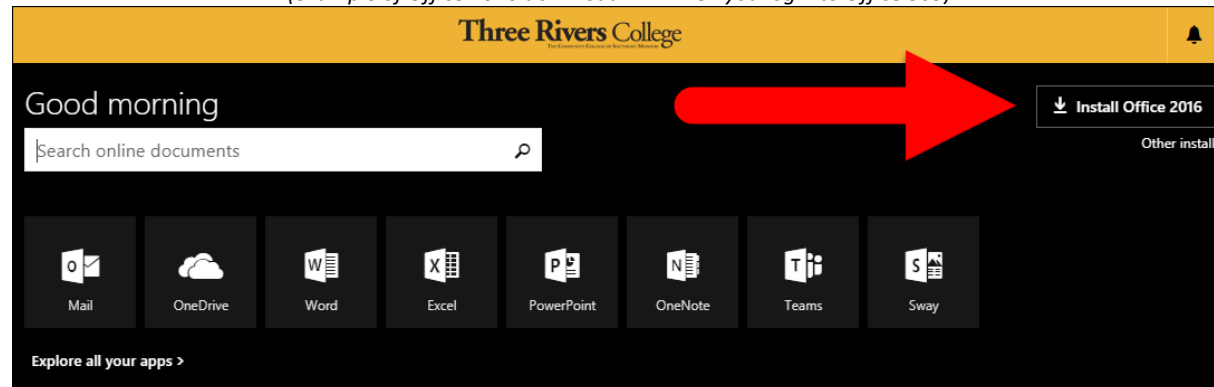
## • Additional Software and Plugins

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.	<a href="#">Download</a>	n/a
WinRAR	.zip • .rar • etc.	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
Adobe Acrobat Reader	.pdf	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
Adobe Flash Player	<i>(needed for Blackboard use)</i>	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
Java	<i>(needed for Blackboard use)</i>	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
Open Office	.doc • .docx .ppt • .pptx .xls • .xlsx .rtf • .txt	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>

Microsoft Office	.doc   .docx   .ppt   .pptx .xls   .xlsx   .rtf   .txt	Available for free! Log into your Office365 <a href="#">student email</a> for the link.	Available for free! Log into your Office365 <a href="#">student email</a> for the link.
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(example of Office 2016 download link when you log into Office 365)



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

Additional Software	PC	Mac
Microsoft Security Essentials	<a href="#">Download</a>	n/a
Malwarebytes Anti-Malware Free	<a href="#">Download</a>	n/a

Mobile Microsoft Office Apps	iOS	Android
Word	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
Excel	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
PowerPoint	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
OneNote	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
OneDrive	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
Outlook	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
Office Lens	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>

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