

## **Technical Requirements for Distance Education**

### **User requirements**

Do I need to have a computer background to take an online course?

No. Successful online students need to be able to perform the following basic tasks comfortably:

- Send and receive e-mails
- Send and open e-mail attachments (Word files)
- Use Microsoft Word
- Manage files in Word
- Function in online library databases
- Perform basic research on the Internet
- Be able to use a browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.

### **Hardware and software requirements**

**Students must have access to a computer with an Internet connection and a valid email address**

**If you have a pop-up blocker program and/or Norton Firewall Ad-Blocker you will need to disable them while in your online course. You may also have to disable a firewall if you have one.**

**If you use AOL as your browser, please read the information for AOL Users listed on the WebStudy home page.**

**Depending on your course, you may need other programs such as Adobe Acrobat Reader or a viewer for PowerPoint. These free plug-ins are available by visiting WebStudy's home page under 'Download Plugins'.**

#### **Recommended basic hardware and software for PC users:**

Pentium-2 processor with Windows 2000 or newer  
256 Megabytes of RAM or more (recommended)  
Audio card with speakers  
Display with at least 800x600 pixels resolution  
CD-ROM drive  
Internet Service Provider required (56k modem or faster connection)  
Explorer 6.0 or Netscape 7 (may have limited features), Mozilla Firefox  
Windows Media Player 9 or newer  
Word processing software that can save files in Word or RTF (Microsoft Word recommended)

#### **Recommended basic hardware and software for Mac users:**

Mac G3 or newer with OS X or better

128 Megabytes of RAM or more (recommended)

Speakers

Display resolution with at least 800x600 pixels resolution

CD-ROM drive

Internet Service Provider required (56k modem or faster connection)

Internet Explorer 5 for Mac OS X or Netscape 7 (older browsers are not supported),

Safari, Mozilla Firefox

Word processing software that can save files in Word or RTF (Microsoft Word recommended)

Windows Media Player 9 for Mac OS X