

U of M - Student Technology Recommendations

The Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning – Updated August 2025

Recommended Minimum Technology Requirements for Students (Remote and Online Learning at the U of M)

Using computer systems, software, and internet connections that do not meet these minimum requirements could impact your ability to participate in and complete your courses. Issues that result from using non-recommended systems cannot usually be remedied by the Service Desk.

Computer Requirements

- Supported browsers - Visit the [D2L Brightspace Community](#) for details:
<https://community.d2l.com/brightspace/kb/articles/5663>
 - For an optimal experience that offers better performance, accessibility, and security, we recommend that all users access UM Learn with the latest version of a supported browser.
 - Most browsers automatically update to the latest version by default. To ensure you are always running the latest browser version, we recommend that you set your browser to auto-update.
- Headphones, microphone, and a camera.
- Test your computer to ensure its compatibility with UM Learn:
<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/systemCheck>

Internet connection:

- Ideally a wired network connection or, if not available, a wireless internet connection.
- Troubleshoot poor connectivity:
 - For wireless, ensure the computer is within 10m (30 ft) of the access point (router or modem).
 - Limit the number of other users or devices accessing the wireless internet connection (use 'airplane mode' for your other WIFI devices during class).
- Test your internet connection. Ideally, run these tests when your wired or wireless connections are under their usual load (i.e. if others in your location also use the internet regularly).
 - Internet bandwidth should have a minimum of 5 Mbps of download and 2 Mbps of upload capacity.
 - Verify your internet speed using resources available, such as <https://support.bell.ca/Internet/Internet-Speed-Test> and <https://speedtest.shaw.ca/>.
- If possible, avoid tethering from mobile devices – using your phone as an internet connectivity point can be very slow and error prone.