

## VFCC-Woodbridge Campus Computer Requirements

You don't have to be technologically savvy to utilize the online portion of the course. However, you must be comfortable with your system and be willing to deal with any problems that may arise. Hardware and software malfunctions when you least expect it.

To do well in the online portion of the course, you should be familiar with the following:

- Use of a Web browser
- Handling email, including sending email attachments
- Basic file management
- Finding information on the Internet
- Completing online forms

Lack of technical knowledge can greatly hinder your online learning ability. If you do not have the above skills, consider taking a computer course to assist in your online course participation.

### Computer Minimum Configuration

**CPU:** 600MHz Intel Celeron processor

Memory: 64MB RAM Hard drive:

6.4GB hard drive CD-ROM drive

Operating System: Windows XP , Windows 2000, Windows Vista

### Macintosh:

CPU: 500MHz Power PC processor (Power Macintosh)

Memory: 64MB RAM

Hard drive: 20GB Hard drive

CD-ROM drive

Operating System: Macintosh OS, current versions (OS 9.2.2/10)

Sound card and speakers

### Strongly recommended:

Microsoft Office 2007 or 2010

Printer

### Web Browser Requirements [[View Blackboard browser info chart](#)]

**PC Users**, Blackboard recommends:

Windows - [FireFox](#), [Safari](#) or [Internet Explorer 7](#) (or later)

**Macintosh Users**, Blackboard recommends

Mac OS - [Safari](#)

**Note:** Javascript and cookies must be enabled in order to log into Blackboard.

### AOL Users

AOL is currently not recommended for use with Blackboard. You will need to use either Mozilla [FireFox](#) or [Internet Explorer](#) when accessing your online courses. Most computers

have a pre-installed version of an external browser such as [Internet Explorer](#) or [Netscape](#). Or download now using the links above.

1. Get online in your usual way.
2. Close or minimize the AOL browser.
3. Open [Internet Explorer](#), [Mozilla FireFox](#) or [Netscape](#).
4. Go to the [AOL Home Page](#) to begin the login process.

### Pop-up Blockers

Many newer browsers include pop-up blockers that may block quizzes, test or assignments from popping up in your Blackboard classroom. If you experience any difficulties accessing classroom materials, turn off any pop-up blockers that you may be running and attempt to access the classroom materials.

### Plug-ins

Course may require you to download these and other plug-ins:

- [RealPlayer](#) (look for free version)
- [Flash Player](#)
- [QuickTime Player](#) (look for free version)
- [PowerPoint Viewer](#)
- [Windows Media Player](#)

### Virus Control

Computer viruses can cause damage to your computer and the files stored in it. If you send a file with a virus to someone else in your class, that person's computer may become "infected" as well. Anti-virus software is recommended and available to help protect your computer. Visit [http://www.microsoft.com/security\\_essentials/?mkt=en-us](http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials/?mkt=en-us) or [www.mcafee.com](http://www.mcafee.com) or [www.norton.com](http://www.norton.com) to find out more.

**NOTE:** Your class may require you to download special plug-ins from your textbook publisher's site. You most likely will need to disable your antivirus to do this. Be sure to re-instate your anti-virus software after downloading and only download from trusted sites.

### Internet Access & Email

You will need access to a computer and the Internet 3 out of 7 days a week for a total of 3 or more hours a week for each three-credit class. You can use more than one computer (home, work, and school). You will need a student account to use the open lab computers.

While dial-up Internet service is usable, it is not the optimum choice for participating in the online portion of your classes. You may need to download/upload files that are large and will require extended download times over dial-up service.

Blackboard – <http://elearn.vfcc.edu>

Email – <http://webmail.vfcc.edu>

You should have received a student account ID and Password from Sheila Baker. If you have not please contact her at 703.580.4810 or [s\\_baker@vfcc.edu](mailto:s_baker@vfcc.edu).