New Student Technology Information

Dear New Students,

Welcome to the Bloustein School! It is my privilege to be part of an exceptional information technology team that is here to help you during your time at the Bloustein School. We want to ensure you have some information about the upcoming semester and especially as it relates to technology. Specifically, we want to ensure you are aware of our hardware recommendations for personal purchases, our computer labs and how you will gain access, virtual labs and how you can gain access to those resources, as well as information on the software packages used in our programs.

Hardware Recommendations

Though our academic programs do not have laptop requirements, we do have hardware recommendations. We are providing these recommendations in case you are purchasing a computer for your studies. Having your own computer will be very helpful, as it will allow you to do most of your work using your own equipment. Although these are specified as laptop recommendations, if you have a desktop computer that meets the minimum recommendations, that will suffice. Another important thing to keep in mind is that some of the software used in our programs is not compatible with macOS and so if you are planning on using a Mac, you may need to use the virtual lab or run virtualization software locally in order to install an instance of Windows to run those programs. At the very least, you should have a reliable computer that is no less than five years old with a working webcam and microphone so that you can participate in any Zoom based class sessions. [Please find the minimum recommended laptop specifications for your concentration here.](#)

Physical Computer Labs

We have approximately 90 high powered workstations in our computer labs and studio rooms that are configured with the programs used in our courses. Our computer labs are accessible twenty-four seven to graduate students and undergraduate or non-Bloustein School students using our facilities as part of their classes. It is important to note that you will need an account created for you to access the Bloustein School Computer Labs and you should receive information about that account prior to the start of the semester.   All of our students also have access to the University's OIT computer labs, which house hundreds of PCs and Macs on the Busch, College Avenue, Cook/Douglass, and Livingston campuses.

Virtual Computer Labs

We currently have a virtual lab in place for students to access our lab computers remotely. If you will be taking a class that uses any of our specialized software, you will receive information on accessing our virtual lab prior to the start of the semester. In addition, Rutgers OIT has virtual labs and students who do not need to access the specialized programs we have in our

labs can use the OIT virtual labs for their needs. The specialized programs that are exclusive to our labs are mainly related to the graphics classes provided as part of our Planning programs and include AutoCAD Civil-3D, Rhino 3D, Sketchup Pro, and V-Ray 3D Rendering software. It is important to note that we also have minimum computing requirements for connecting to our virtual lab and if you plan on using the virtual lab, you will need to have a system that meets these standards. You can find information on the virtual computer labs here.

Software
Another important topic is software. We ask that you do not buy any software related to your courses. The software required will be available for you to either run on your own computer, or to use through our physical or virtual computer labs. If you find that those options are not convenient, some software packages are available for personal purchase. You can find more information about the software packages we support and what software licenses are available to you here.

We are happy to help you if you need assistance in selecting a device to purchase, or if you have any other questions or concerns about this information or technology in general. We can be reached at [help@ejb.rutgers.edu.](mailto:help@ejb.rutgers.edu)

Welcome to the Bloustein School! We look forward to serving you during your time here.

Thank you,

Martin

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