

Dear Student,

As you are preparing for the start of the fall 2021 semester, we want to remind you of our student computing requirements. These requirements will be particularly important as we prepare for a return to in-person instruction with significant use of technology this fall due to COVID 19.

### **Student Computing Requirements**

To help ensure students are equipped for academic success, UMBC requires all undergraduate students to be technologically self-sufficient. Minimally this requires students to have a reliable laptop computer and Internet access, not only for online-only courses, but also for hybrid/blended courses that meet partially on-campus.

### **What are the Recommended Computing Specifications?**

To assist students in preparing for essential IT needs, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) provides a wealth of resources and support, including minimum specifications to consider when purchasing a computer. To learn more, visit [doit.umbc.edu/students](https://doit.umbc.edu/students).

### **Does Financial Aid Consider Student Computing Needs?**

Yes, student computing needs are considered in financial aid eligibility and awarding. Specifically, the [Cost of Attendance \(COA\)](#), an estimate or budget of all reasonable costs, direct and indirect, associated with attendance at UMBC, considers computing needs as part of *books and supplies*.

Any financial assistance received in excess of direct costs to UMBC (i.e. tuition, fees, housing, meal plans) will be sent to students in the form of a refund that can be used towards the purchase of a computer/laptop.

### **What If I Am Unable to Access a Personal Computer or Internet?**

In partnership with the Albin O. Kuhn Library, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) offers a limited supply of loaner laptops for emergency use. For more information about how to request a loaner laptop, visit the [Laptop Loan Program](#). Beyond [campus WiFi](#), there are a variety of ways students can [Get Online](#).

### **What If I Have Additional Computing Hardware or Software Questions?**

Please review the [doit.umbc.edu/students](https://doit.umbc.edu/students) site or submit a help request at [my.umbc.edu/help](https://my.umbc.edu/help), where you can also request help with other topics.

We wish you a successful fall semester.

Jack Suess  
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