

Blackboard Technical Requirements

We recommend the following hardware and software requirements to run Blackboard:

Minimum system requirements	Recommended mid-range requirements
IBM compatible computer.	IBM compatible computer.
P4 2.4 MHz processor	Dual Core 2.00GHz
512 MB of RAM	2 GB RAM
64 MB video card	128 MB video card
Microsoft® Windows® XP	Microsoft® Windows® XP Please note ACU National does not currently support Windows Vista
1024 x 768 display	1280 x 800 display
500 MB of hard disk free	160 GB hard disk
Sound card and speakers	Sound card speakers & microphone
56 Kbps modem	A high speed Internet connection eg. Cable Broadband or DSL 256/64 Kbps

Viewers

You may need to work with word processed documents, spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations etc. If you do not have these applications on your computer, the following viewers will help you view various types of documents from the Microsoft® Office® suite. Using a viewer you can only read the documents, you will not be able to change or save them.

If you do not have the required Microsoft® Office software applications installed, you can [download viewers](#) for Microsoft® Word, Excel etc from Microsoft.

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/downloads/HA010449811033.aspx>

Browser Requirements and settings

Browser	Recommended version	Download for free
Internet Explorer	6 is okay, version 7 is recommended	Internet Explorer http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/ie6/downloads/
FireFox/Mozilla	Version 2.0.0.12	Mozilla http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/

Browser check

It is important to run a browser check prior to using Blackboard for the first time on any new computer. The browser check will test your browser settings to ensure that Blackboard will work correctly

<http://www.webct.com/tuneup/>

Check your internet settings

Ensure your internet browser is configured to refresh the page you are viewing on every visit. This will make sure you see any new content, and new messages posted to the Discussion Board in Blackboard. In Internet Explorer:

1. Click on 'Tools', then 'Internet options' then click on 'General'
2. Select 'Temporary internet files', and then click on 'Settings'
3. Select 'Every visit to the page'

Blackboard Technical Requirements (cont'd)

Popup blocker settings

Blackboard uses pop-up windows (a box that appears with a message or action). If your browser blocks pop-ups blackboard will not work properly. Check that Internet Explorer popup blocker settings are set to allow pop-ups.

1. Click on 'Tools', then 'Pop-up blocker settings'
2. Set Filter level to 'Low.... or Medium....'

JavaScript

JavaScript adds interactivity to web pages and has to be enabled in your browser. To enable JavaScript, do the following:

For Internet Explorer 5.5 and above	For Firefox/Mozilla
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Click on 'Tools'.2. Click on 'Internet Options'.3. On the 'Advanced' tab, scroll down to the 'Security' section of the list.4. Select the 'Allow active content to run in files on My Computer' check box.5. Click 'OK'.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Click on 'Tools'.2. Click on 'Options'.3. Click on 'Web Features'.4. Check 'Enable JavaScript'.5. Click 'OK'.

Plug-ins

A plug-in is a small program that helps to run software that may be in your online unit (eg, Flash, Adobe PDF Reader). Most plug-ins will already be on your computer however if you have an old computer (more than two years old), you may need to download a newer version. If you don't have the plug-ins listed below, download them for free by clicking on the links and following the instructions. If you are not sure whether you have these plug-ins, or if you have any problems downloading them, contact your local IT Support Help desk.

Flash Player

Flash will allow you to view animations or interactive exercises in your online unit. If you need to download the [Flash](http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) plug-in you can download it from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

PDF Reader

Portable Document Format (pdf) files are usually text documents. They are saved in pdf format so you cannot change their formatting or content. A pdf document is often seen as a normal hyperlinked word on the screen. You will need a pdf reader to view these files. Most computers will have a copy of Adobe® Acrobat® Reader™ installed. If you need to install it a free version available from Adobe® online at: <http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/>