

From: Martin O'Reilly

RE: Technology & Fall 2020

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe. I am writing to ensure you have the necessary hardware you'll need for the upcoming semester and that you understand how we'll be operating this fall.

First, my team, in collaboration with the faculty, created laptop recommendations for our programs. We want to ensure that you have the necessary computing power to effectively use the software programs for your area of study. The value of having a device that meets these recommended standards is that you will be able to do the vast majority of your work using your own equipment. Though these are specified as laptop recommendations, if you have a desktop computer that meets the minimum recommendations, that will suffice, but please ensure you have a webcam and a microphone so that you can participate in Webex or Zoom class sessions. [Please find the recommended specifications for your concentration here.](#)

Second, because some students will be unable to upgrade their computer at this time, we will be offering virtual computer lab access. Rutgers OIT is making their general access labs available remotely, which can be used for the students that primarily use statistics programs. We are also in the process of creating an EJB virtual lab with a supplemental cloud-based solution to provide additional capacity and functionality. These labs will be used to access programs that require higher end computing power like ArcGIS and AutoCAD. Though these are exciting advances, there are requirements involved with their use. Specifically, there are minimum computing requirements related to connecting to the virtual labs and your access to the EJB virtual labs may be limited in terms of available hours based on how much demand we have for the service. You can find information on the [virtual computer labs here.](#)

Our third initiative is related to software, as software license accessibility is another key factor in helping you to work remotely. Though we have modified some of our licenses to provide remote capability, some vendors are no longer offering free licenses. We ask that you do not buy any software related to your courses at this time, as we will be providing further information on software access in the coming weeks. However, we do have some information available today so that you can learn more about what [software licenses are available to you.](#)

We will make further announcements about software and the programs we'll be using this semester for remote learning as we get closer to the fall semester. 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. We can be reached at help@ejb.rutgers.edu.

Thank you,

Martin O'Reilly
Director of Information Technology
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

P.848-932-2800