

Fall 2021 Technology Update
Date: June 17, 2021

We hope this message finds you healthy, safe, and happy. We write to welcome those of you who are new to the Bloustein School community and to make you aware of some fall semester planning.

As of today, we are planning that the Bloustein School computer labs will be open for the fall semester. If this changes, we will notify you, but as of now, we are very happy that things are getting back to normal at Rutgers.

Although we are hopeful that there will not be any disruptions to the coming academic year, it is important to be ready in case things change. In addition, we are welcoming many incoming students in all our programs and classes and our facilities will be busy.

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 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. Please note that we also highly recommend having a webcam so that you can participate in any Zoom based class sessions. [Please find the recommended specifications for your concentration here.](#)

Physical Computer Labs

Our focus for the fall will be on our in-person 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 to graduate students and undergraduate or non-Bloustein School students using our facilities as part of their classes. 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

During the pandemic, we provided virtual computer lab access for remote learning. It is anticipated that there will be virtual lab options for the fall of 2021, but the capacities for these labs will be decreased and the details have yet to be finalized. We plan on distributing surveys so that you can help guide our efforts and we plan on monitoring the usage of our computer labs early in the semester to help ensure we have enough systems available for both in-person and virtual use. It is important to note that we do have minimum computing requirements related to connecting to our virtual lab and at the very least, we highly recommend that you 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 at this time, as some of the software licensing options may change between now and the start of the fall semester. However, we do have information available today so that you can learn about what [software licenses are available to you.](#)

We will make further announcements and ask for your help in responding to surveys 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 or technology in general. We can be reached at help@ejb.rutgers.edu.

Thank you,

Martin

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