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## What software will I need?

Software use will vary from course to course; however, the following software is commonly used:

- Microsoft Office, Open Office or Google Docs - presentation application, spreadsheet capability and word processing;
- Web browser: Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari or Internet Explorer;
- Additional open educational resources, such as blogs and wikis.

The courses will make use of open-source software packages as much as possible. Each course instructor may also require the use of course-specific software.

Although most software will be free, students may have to purchase some software. The cost will never represent more than the average normal cost of books associated with such studies.

All UOIT students receive a UOIT.net account (Google). With that, you will have access to the Google Suite of Apps for Education. We suggest you leverage Mail, Calendar, Doc (for collaborative document creation and editing), Hangouts (for synchronous small group work) and Drive (for data backup).



Check out UOIT's Faculty of Education!

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## Will I get device support from UOIT?

Any hardware issues will NOT be supported by UOIT's IT Services; however, you will receive support from IT Services when having issues with logging in to any UOIT online services or access to the campus networks.

## Will faculty at UOIT show me how to use my device?

Being in a laptop or BYOD program brings with it an assumption that you will learn how to use your device and technology simply by going about your daily life as a student in our Faculty of Education. We approach learning in a collaborative and professional manner so faculty and students work together to critically solve problems.

## What skills do I need in order to participate in the BYOD program?

You need to be **open** and **ready to learn**, **flexible**, and **collaborative**!

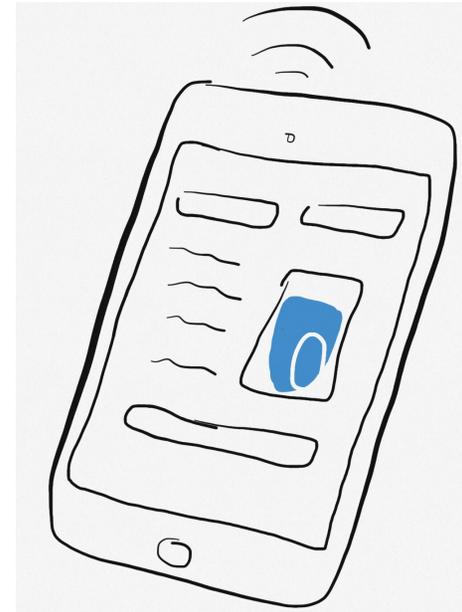
You do, however, require some general computer skills. You must possess a minimum technical skill set that allows you to use the necessary technology used in your courses. You should be comfortable with the use of your device.

Adopting a flexible attitude towards digital technologies is highly important for this program. If you don't know how to use a specific tool or affordance, use the situation as the basis for an independent problem-based learning opportunity to try to figure it out or work collaboratively with your colleagues. You should also be able to find many resources on the Internet.

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# BYOD

## Bring Your Own Device



In September 2015, the Faculty of Education at UOIT is making history by being the first faculty at UOIT to pilot a BYOD program! Here are some frequently asked questions about this new program.

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## What is BYOD?

BYOD refers to "bring your own device" which means that as a teacher candidate in UOIT's Bachelor of Education, you will be responsible for bringing your own device (e.g. laptop, tablet) to class. By participating in a BYOD program you will have the freedom to select devices **you** like and want to use. The ability to effectively use digital technologies is an essential skill for educational and technological leaders. By simply being a student in our program, you will have many opportunities to develop strategies and skills working with a variety of digital tools.

## What type of device is appropriate?

Rather than "tell" you what device to buy, we remain neutral to device choice. The best way to approach what device to "bring" is to consider how and why you will use this device.

When selecting your device, you may want to consider the following:

- You may spend long hours at the faculty. Consider, are you able to work on your device for extended periods of time?
- What screen size is best for you?
- What type of keyboard do you require?
- What size and weight is comfortable?
- How long will your battery last?
- Does it have good wifi capabilities?\*
- Does your device have sufficient RAM and processing power to run the type of current software that is used in educational contexts?
- Do you prefer to use an external mouse?

\*Wireless G capability is a minimum and wireless N is ideal  
Ethernet (network) ports are available in class. A 2-3 m CAT 6 cable is recommended if you would like to connect your laptop to the network.

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## What kind of work will I need to do on my device?

During semesters 1, 2, and 4 you will be required to bring your device to class for a variety of purposes. For example, you will use your device to take notes or access the web-based learning management system (i.e., Blackboard), resources, and software.

To optimize your learning experience in semester 3, which is fully online, you will need to ensure your device meets specific technical requirements. In semester 3, you will be using Adobe Connect for all face-to-face sessions. You will need the necessary computer resources and ability to join and maintain a browser-based audio/video conference (Adobe Connect) in order to actively participate in all online class sessions.

### **Adobe Connect**

Adobe Connect is a browser-based video conferencing platform that uses a browser add-in to provide better system stability and some important functionality such as screen sharing and access to recordings. The Connect add-in has some known incompatibilities with the Google Chrome browser; therefore, Firefox or Safari are recommended. You can also test your installation using the Adobe Connect connection test which will be available on our website.

Candidates must also have Internet access with sufficient speed or bandwidth to allow full audio and video participation in Adobe Connect sessions.

An Adobe Connect mobile app is available for use on iOS, Android, and Blackberry based devices.

Please see

<http://www.adobe.com/ca/products/adobeconnect/feature-details/adobe-connectmobile.html>

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## What are the hardware requirements?

In semester 3, students require access to a computer, preferably a laptop, with these minimum characteristics:

- Audio capabilities with appropriate combination headset/microphone (external speakers are not acceptable as they tend to cause feedback noise);
- High-speed Internet access (download speed should be greater than 2.0mbps and upload speed should be greater than 0.6mbps);
- Operating system: Windows 7 or newer, or MacOS X 10.6x or newer;
- Video capabilities with either a built-in or external compatible webcam.

Candidates must have access to high-speed Internet service, preferably at home, as schools tend to have firewalls that can block many key features of these sessions, such as videoconferencing.