

Welcome to Northern Lakes College!

In order to access and use the online resources of the College you will need a reliable computer meeting the specs as shown below. If you are using your home computer you also need to ensure there is at least 100Gb of free storage space available.

Hardware Specifications	Entry Level (OK)	Business level (Preferred)
Processor	Intel I3 or equivalent	Intel I5 - 9 th or 10 generation processor or similar
Memory	4Gb	8Gb
Storage/Hard Disk	256Gb	512GB
Wireless	802.11b/g/n/ac, Bluetooth 4.2,	802.11/b/b/n/ac/, Bluetooth 4.2
Operating system		
Ports required	USB, Headphone/Microphone combo jack.	USB, Headphone/Microphone combo jack.
Display port	HDMI 1.4	HDMI 1.4
Screen size	13" or up, recommend 15.6 inch	
A headset with noise cancellation technology is recommended; Speaker and Microphone also work. Installing a HD webcam is also required.		

Below is a list of software and the minimum software version required for this program. In most cases the best version to run is the latest version available.

Recommended Software	Minimum	Preferred
Operating Systems	Windows 8.1, 10 MAC OS - 10.11, 10.12, 10.12,	Windows 10 with latest updates MacOS - 10.13 or 10.14 latest updates
Internet Browser	Chrome 32bit or Safari (11 or 12)	Chrome 64bit
AntiVirus/Malware	Windows Defender - latest updates MAC -	Any malware software from a reputable vendor that is updated weekly or monthly.
Microsoft Office 365 student edition is available online and to download for all students registered in a College program.		

Use of **Chromebooks, Ipad**s or **Android** tablets for basic word, email and excel will work but are restricted in applications and our ability to provide support - therefore their use is not recommended at this time.

Internet Connection:

You will need a highspeed internet connection of at least 1.5Mega bits per second (Mbps); faster is better; a connection of 5Mbps or greater is preferred. An unlimited data plan is also preferred.

Test your connection speed using, speedtest by Ookla (speedtest.net) or CIRA (performance.cira.ca). Test your connection multiple times around the time you expect to participate in online classes.

Online Class Participants:

In order to attend online classes, you **will** be required to have a microphone and speaker or headset. It is recommended you use a good headset that has noise cancellation and is comfortable to use as you will be wearing it for a significant amount of time. A web cam will be required for online testing.

The college uses Blackboard Collaborate to deliver online classes, to attend classes you will be emailed information with pertinent information. To connect into the class, you will use your internet browser to connect and log in. No special app installation is required. You should always connect to your session early and test your audio and video.

Note: If you are attending classes from a company network you may need to get your company IT department to adjust the firewall settings for this to work properly.