

# Bring Your Own Device FAQ

## Why does CELOP recommend that students have a laptop or tablet?

As university classes have been using more technology resources, it has become more important for students to have their own computers. While BU has a number of computer labs on campus for students to use, many teachers are now using Blackboard and even having students use their laptops in class.

## Do other BU departments have the same requirement?

Many departments at BU and other schools recommend that students have their own laptops, and one of our goals at CELOP is to help you prepare for further studies in the US, so having a laptop and learning to use systems like Blackboard are part of that training.

## What kind of computer do I need?

You will need a laptop computer running Windows 7 or above or Mac OS 10.11 or above. If you bring a tablet, it should have a physical keyboard so that you can see the whole screen while you are typing. Windows XP is not acceptable due to security issues, Chromebooks are too limited in the programs they can use, and a cell phone is not sufficient for research, writing, accessing course materials, or other tasks you will need to be able to do.

## What about restrictions on bringing laptops on airplanes?

For the latest information on bringing a laptop into the United States, please check with the Department of Homeland Security using this link: [Aviation Security Information](#)

## Can I buy a laptop when I arrive?

Certainly. BU has agreements with Apple and Lenovo so that students can buy their laptops through BU at a discount. You can find more information here <http://www.bu.edu/tech/support/purchase/personal/shop/>. You also have many options for buying a laptop off-campus. Any computer you buy in the US will have an English-language keyboard with options for typing in other European languages, but there are software solutions for typing in languages that do not use the Roman alphabet.

## What if I can't bring a laptop or tablet with me?

CELOP has a limited number of laptops and tablets that teachers can borrow for students to use in class, but students will not be able to use these devices outside of class, so to do homework there are a number of computer labs available on campus.

## Is there a penalty if students can't or don't bring their own device?

You will not be penalized for not having a laptop or tablet, but you will have to put in an extra effort to get your homework done by visiting a computer lab.

## What software will I need?

You will need a web browser such as Google Chrome, Firefox, or Explorer. It is a good idea to install more than one browser on your computer as certain web sites work better with some browsers than with others. You will also need an office suite such as Microsoft Office or another program that will allow you to work with Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files, as these are the programs that are most often used by instructors to create course materials.

## Can I get Microsoft Office for free from BU?

Yes. Students who are enrolled in a BU program can download one copy of the latest version of Microsoft Office for Mac or Windows for their personal use. You have to be on campus or have a BU login and use a VPN connection to download the program.

## Do I need any other equipment?

You will need a pair of headphones with a microphone in order to listen to audio, watch video, and record your voice. They don't have to be expensive. Earbuds with a built-in mic should work fine.

## How can I access the BU network?

BU has a campus-wide wireless network. The key to accessing the network and BU facilities and services is your BU login name, which you get when you create your BU email account. You can find more information about accessing the BU wireless network here <http://www.bu.edu/tech/services/infrastructure/networks/wireless/8021x/>

## Do I have to use my BU email account?

Yes, your BU email account is used for all official communication from the University, as well as for getting enrolled in Blackboard, which BU uses to manage your courses. Student email accounts use BU Google Mail, and give you access to Google Apps. If you prefer to check your email using a different account, you can forward your BU mail, but you must know how to access and use your BU Google account.

## Where can I go to get help with my laptop?

There is a tech support office at CELOP in Room 253 where you can get help with computer questions, and the BU IT Help Center, which provides many free and low-cost services for students, is located one block from CELOP at 179 Amory Street. You can also find the answers to many questions at the BU Tech Getting Started Page for Students here <http://www.bu.edu/tech/support/student/>

## Where can I print documents?

The CELOP computer labs have printers that you can use to print small jobs of up to ten pages per day. They do not have wireless capability, so you have to email your document to yourself or save it to the cloud or a flash drive in order to open it on a lab computer and print it. Many places on campus have a cloud printing solution, where you can send your document to be printed and then go pick it up. Here is a list of printing locations at BU <http://www.bu.edu/tech/services/cccs/printing/myprint/myprint-locations/>