

Bachelor of Communication Studies (BCS), Journalism Major, Year 2 Laptop, Peripheral, and Software Requirements

The BCS Journalism Major program, Department of Communication at MacEwan University requires that all students entering their second year of study purchase a laptop to complete assignments in and out of the classroom. For students entering their second year of study this will include a MacBook Air, MacBook Pro or comparable Windows 10 system along with an optional case, peripherals, Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Cloud. Please pay close attention to the following requirements as you will need your system set up and ready to go for the first day of classes. Students with a focus in Broadcast Journalism please refer to the footnotes on page 4.

Why a laptop?

Having mobility in the field of journalism is critical and the Program has selected a laptop requirement that will give you the most flexibility in and out of the classroom. Whether you are working in a classroom, lab, or cafe, you will have all the tools you need when and where you need them.

Why recommend a MacBook Air or MacBook Pro?

Apple uses high quality components in all of its laptops that give students a superior technological experience throughout their studies. It also prepares them for entry into the work place, as Mac is the standard platform used in the journalism industry. Macs also age better: they are more durable and take much longer to reach obsolescence.

In consultation with our Mobile Technologies Support Specialist, BCS has selected the MacBook Pro as our recommended system, because it is one of the most powerful and adaptable Apple laptops, has a highly efficient battery, is relatively light and easy to commute with, and has a processor capable of running the most demanding applications that are required for Journalism students. Broadcast students please take note of the **Optimal Configuration** on page 2. Apple's more recent MacBook Airs and many modern Windows 10 PCs will also meet the minimum requirements for the Program.

I already own a Laptop. Do I need to upgrade or buy a new one?

Only certain previous generation MacBook Pros from mid-2013 onward, MacBook Airs from early-2015 onward, and higher configuration Windows 10 laptops are optimized to efficiently run the advanced graphically intensive applications you will require. If you have purchased a laptop previous to your application for the BCS Journalism Major, it will be subject to approval by our department as not all hardware configurations will meet the program's minimum requirements.

Please contact Jason Malenko, our Mobile Technologies Support Specialist (information below) to determine if your laptop meets the BCS Journalism Major Program requirements:

Type	Display	Hard Drive	Processor	Graphics	RAM	Operating System
MacBook Air or MacBook Pro	13" or 15" 1440 x 900 pixels	128GB - 256GB Solid State Drive	2.3GHz Intel Dual-Core i5	Intel HD 6000 / Intel Iris	8GB - 16GB	OS X 10.12.6 (Sierra)
Windows Laptop	13" + 1366 x 768 pixels	128GB SSD or 500GB SATA	Intel i5 or AMD A6	Intel, NVIDIA, or AMD	8GB - 16GB	Windows 10 (64 bit)




** The above Mac requirements describe most MacBook Pros from mid-2013 or MacBook Air from early-2015 onwards. Comparable Windows 10 systems are likely to be approved but will require individual assessment.*

STEP 1) Buying a new MacBook Air or Pro (Recommendations for Windows 10 systems below)

If you are purchasing a new system for your studies in BCS Journalism Major then we highly recommend a MacBook Air or MacBook Pro which can be purchased at an academic discount at Apple’s Online Education Store or Apple’s two Edmonton retail locations. You can also buy Apple refurbished laptops (which carry the standard one-year warranty) at a discount from the Apple store. To customize your laptop you must do so at time of purchase via the online Education store, however, Apple also offers two to three configurations of each system at their retail locations.

Any of Apple’s MacBook systems are capable of delivering professional results with their base configurations, however, there are certain upgrades that will prolong the life of your laptop (see Step 2). This doesn’t necessarily mean buying the most expensive option but investing more money in your system up front is likely to provide you additional year(s) of use.

In order to purchase a customized MacBook Pro or Air see Apple’s Online Education Store for MacEwan


Minimum	Recommended*	Optimal Configuration
		
13” MacBook Air	13” MacBook Pro	13” MacBook Pro with Touch Bar
128-256GB SSD	128GB SSD	256GB SSD
1.8GHz dual-core i5	2.3GHz dual-core i5	2.3GHz quad-core i5
Intel HD Graphics 6000	Intel Iris Plus Graphics 640	Intel Iris Pro Graphics 655
8GB memory	8GB memory	8GB memory
Price range: \$1,129-1,379	Base cost: \$1,659	Base cost: \$2,269

University: http://store.apple.com/ca_edu_118059

If you are purchasing a new 13” MacBook Air or Pro we highly recommend a system with at least 256GB of hard drive space which may require ordering online in some circumstances.

STEP 1/Alternative) Windows 10 System

Although we do recommend and utilize the Mac almost exclusively in the BCS, Journalism Major we acknowledge that many students will already have or may prefer to work on a Windows-based platform. Due to the overwhelming number of brands, models, and configuration options it is difficult to make a blanket recommendation, however, the closest “Mac like” experience we find is provided by the Microsoft Surface line where Microsoft engineers both the operating system and hardware.


	Surface Laptop	Intel Core i5	8GB RAM	256GB Hard Drive
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Please visit the link below for our suggested model the Surface “Laptop” with the above configuration:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/store/b/surface?icid=CNavDevicesSurface>

STEP 2) Peripherals (required, recommended, and optional)

Whether using a Mac or PC there are a number of peripherals you'll need to consider with the purchase of your new laptop. In particular there are adapters you'll need to purchase for displaying your work on an projector, an external drive for backing up your data locally, and some form of protective case or sleeve to prevent damage to your system.

		Cost	Port Type
	Required: 2TB external hard drive <i>External drive for backing up and managing your files. Weblink</i>	\$90+	All
	Recommended: Laptop case or sleeve <i>There are a wide range of laptop cases available. Ideally one with extra padding.</i>	\$25 - \$100	All
	Optional: AppleCare Protection Plan <i>Adds two years to your warranty. Weblink</i>	CA\$251	All
	Optional: Mini DisplayPort to HDMI adapter <i>Allows your MacBook Air or older Mac laptop to connect to a TV or HD projector. Weblink</i>	\$35 - \$89	Non USB-C
	Required: USB-C Multi-Port Adapter <i>Allows you to hook up your USB-C based laptop to a wide range of external devices. Weblink</i>	CA\$93	USB-C

Please ensure that if you purchase a new 13" MacBook Pro you purchase the USB-C adapter below.

STEP 4) Software Requirements



1. Microsoft Office 365

As part of the University's Microsoft agreement, Microsoft Office 365 is now free for all students, staff, and faculty. This includes Word, Powerpoint, Excel, and Outlook as well as 1TB of cloud storage and 60 Skype minutes per month. Once your MacEwan email address is setup you can login and register through the MacEwan Portal by clicking on this link: <https://signup.microsoft.com>



1. Adobe Creative Cloud, Annual Subscription (\$240 USD)

While we will be utilizing as many free applications as possible, all students in Journalism are required to purchase a subscription to Adobe's Creative Cloud which is the Industry software standard and will be used throughout your studies.

Subscriptions are currently available through MacEwan's Bookstore at a substantially reduced cost of \$149 CAD. We encourage you to take advantage of this while supplies last.

For trial software, please visit: adobe.com/creativecloud and when you are ready to purchase, please visit any MacEwan University Bookstore or online at:

<http://macewanbookstore.com/p-7440-adobe-creative-cloud.aspx>

BROADCAST JOURNALISM CONSIDERATIONS

For students progressing in the Broadcast News courses in the Journalism Major, BCS we highly recommend the above "Optimal" configuration to keep up with the demands of a video-editing workflow. You'll want to ensure you have sufficient space and processing power to utilize Adobe's Premiere and Media Encoder applications. Please see the following link with software specific information and requirements direct from Adobe: <https://helpx.adobe.com/premiere-pro/system-requirements.html>

SUMMARY

Please remember that you are responsible for backing up your work and managing your own files. For Design Studies students we do recommend you purchase a new machine that will be "fresh out of the box" and optimized for your school use over the next few years. If you have an older MacBook Pro or Air (or opt to purchase a used or refurbished system) please make arrangements with us well ahead of the start of class so we can verify if your computer is in sufficient working order.

You will need to have your laptop, backup drive, and Creative Cloud subscription purchased and ready to go for the first day of classes.

Need additional pre-purchase information?

Contact Jason Malenko, our Mobile Technologies Support Specialist (780.497.4315; malenkoj@macewan.ca) with any questions you may have. If you already own a laptop you must contact Jason Malenko to determine if it meets the minimum program requirements. Please contact Joyce Nethercote at nethercotej@macewan.ca or 780.497.5614 for any BCS Journalism Major Program enquiries of a non-technical nature.

Step-by-Step-Requirement-Checklist

- Laptop purchased, in hand, and ready to go for the first day of classes.
- Previously owned laptop owners must contact Jason Malenko to determine .
- Microsoft Office 365 activated and installed prior to the first day of classes.
- Backup drive purchased and in hand for the first day of classes.
- Subscription purchased for Adobe's Creative Cloud service via the MacEwan bookstore:

<http://www.macewanbookstore.com/p-7440-adobe-creative-cloud.aspx>

Note for Windows 10 Users: *Please be advised that your instructors will primarily be working on the Mac platform so you may find you have to adapt your workflow and seek support outside of the classroom for any technical issues that may arise. Older systems running Windows XP, Windows 7, 8 or 8.1 are not supported and may not work in all cases.*

Please allow time to purchase and set up your laptop, particularly if you are ordering online.
