

Computer Recommendations for Online Learning

The following are computer related recommendations for ensuring that your online experience at CanIL is optimal. If you have any questions about the following or would like further information, do not hesitate to contact us at...doug.rintoul@canil.ca.

Internet Connection

You will need a reliable high speed Internet connection to successfully take CanIL online courses. Most Internet service provider plans include sufficient speeds to handle the CanIL online content and video conferencing required for our courses (depending on where you live); however, your physical environment is extremely important. If you are connecting wirelessly, ensure you are as close to the router as possible, and that there are few walls between you and your router (no more than two if possible). If you are sharing your internet connection with other people, make sure you have sufficient bandwidth for everyone sharing the connection, especially when you are attending a class. The most reliable connection will be with an ethernet cable if your computer has that capability and you can run a cable between your computer and the router.

Under no circumstances should you try to attend a class from a coffee shop, or a public location such as a library. Your environment needs to be as quiet as possible and free from interruptions and disturbances with reliable internet bandwidth.

Computer Recommendation

The follow computer specifications is recommended:

Memory: 4 GB memory, 8 GB is highly recommended,

Hard Drive: 60 Gb free hard disk space

Processor: Intel I3, I5, I7, or AMD A6+, or AMD Ryzen

OS: Windows 10

Macs can be used for lower level courses, but advanced level courses will require running software that is only available on a Windows platform. Check with your instructor to ensure that a Mac will be sufficient for your course.

It is not recommended to rely on a phone, tablet or Chromebook to take CanIL classes. Many courses will require the installation of fonts and software not available on these devices.

External Drive

An external drive is highly recommended to backup your files and assignments. 1TB drives can be had for less than \$80 CAD. Anything by Seagate or Western Digital is good. Depending on the amount of data you want to back up, a USB thumb drive may also be sufficient. Another option is to use cloud storage such as Google Drive, Dropbox, or Microsoft OneDrive for backup. The important thing is that you back up, preferably daily.

Webcams and Headsets

You will need a webcam, microphone and speakers to participate fully in our online course. Most of our lectures will be presented using video conference software such as Zoom, or Google Meet. The following is are recommended configurations:

Minimum: Laptop with built-in mic, webcam and speaker. Desktop with an external webcam/mic and external speaker.

Recommended: USB Headset with mic.

If on a laptop, you may want to get an external webcam. Some laptops require you to adjust the angle of the display in order to capture your face correctly, but then makes the display less than optimal. An external webcam would allow you to adjust the webcam independently from the display.

Suggested Headsets:

[Mpow 3.5mm USB Headset](#)

[Logitech H390 Wired ClearChat Comfort USB Headset](#)

External microphones:

Another possibility is using a good recording device on a stand or swing arm. Zoom H4N is an excellent recorder for field work. <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=zoom+h4n>. We have been using the Zoom H2 at CanIL for a number of years with good success. The [Zoom H1N](#) has not been tested by us but is probably an adequate way to go as well. All of these can be used as independent recorders, or hooked up to your computer as a microphone.

Swing arms: <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=newer+mic+stand>

Suggested Webcams:

[Logitech C270](#)

[Logitech C920](#)

Due to COVID-19, good quality webcams are in high demand and are difficult to come by. Price gouging is currently in effect for some items. For example, the list price for the C920 is \$100

CAD, but they are being sold on Amazon for \$350 CAD. The C270 is currently available for \$40 on the Logitech site but is being sold on Amazon for \$150.

Software Recommendations

The following outlines the recommended software for CanIL courses. Additional software may be required for specific courses.

Browser

The latest version of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are recommended.

Office Suite

Microsoft Office 2010 or higher. Note that TWU students have free access to Office 365 as long as they are students at CanIL. More information can be found [here](#).

PDF Reader

Adobe Acrobat Reader. Download it here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Video Conferencing

Zoom will be used for the majority of our courses. It is highly recommended you download and use the Desktop version. Download it here: <https://zoom.us/download>. If you are using a tablet such as an iPad, make sure you install the Zoom app and log into it ahead of time. Note that CanIL courses will require you to create a Zoom account if you do not have one, and to log into the same account to attend all CanIL courses using Zoom. As a TWU student, you have access to a full Zoom license.