

What do I need for my computer to take a Minnesota Humanities Online course?

You may use any computer with a current Windows or Macintosh operating system. You will also need a personal e-mail account and reliable internet access via telephone line (dial-up), DSL or cable. Be aware that if you are using a telephone line to connect to the internet you should allow yourself additional time for connecting and assignment completion.

Some additional software may be necessary. This commonly includes:

Word Processing Software

Any program that allows users to read and edit word documents. Some common examples include Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works and Corel WordPerfect. If you do not have any of these programs, the Open Office software package is available as a free alternative at <http://www.openoffice.org/>. Click on “I want to download OpenOffice.org.”

Slideshow Viewing Software

This software allows you to view slideshow presentations, most commonly created using Microsoft PowerPoint. The Open Office software package (see above) includes slideshow viewing software. Also, you can download the Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer for free at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=048dc840-14e1-467d-8dca-19d2a8fd7485&displaylang=en>. Click on “Download.”

Adobe PDF Reader

PDF, or Portable Document File, is another type of document file you may encounter during your class. It also requires special software, the most common being Adobe Reader. You may download it for free at www.adobe.com. Click on “Get Adobe Reader.”

Adobe Flash Player

Flash is used to add videos, animation and other interactive elements to Web sites you may be required to access. It is also released by Adobe and is available as a free download at www.adobe.com. Click on “Get Adobe Flash Player.”

Windows Media Player

Windows Media Player allows users to watch and listen to a number of different audio and video files both online and from their hard drive. It can be downloaded for free at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/11/default.aspx>. To access the player Click on “Download Now.”

Which Web browser should I use?

We recommend the most current version of Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox or Safari.