

# **BMA Seminary**

## **Online Education Requirements**

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In order to take an online course from BMA Seminary the following technology must be available to you:

### **A reliable internet connection**

High-speed internet is definitely preferable. Students have completed courses using mobile internet and satellite internet, in addition to the various forms of wired internet connections.

It is possible to complete a course using public wi-fi access. In general students will need to access each online course at least twice per week, so consistent access is critical. Public wi-fi is not recommended for participating in live video content.

### **A computing device**

This device needs to have the following capabilities:

- Access the internet through a web browser

- Open files such as .pdf or .doc documents

- A word processor capable of writing papers that include footnotes and saving those papers in .doc or .pdf formats (Note: All BMATS students have access to Google Apps for Education, which includes the Google Docs online word processor)

- Scan a document for uploading (most smartphones/tablets have apps available that can scan a document to a .pdf file)

- If taking a course with live video content, a camera, microphone, and speakers/headphones are necessary. These are usually included on laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

Recommended devices include

- A computer running Windows, MacOS, or Chrome OS

- A tablet with sufficient apps to meet the necessary capabilities (an external keyboard is strongly recommended for typing a paper on a tablet)

- A smartphone is not recommended as the primary device for completing an online course. While technically just as capable of performing all the required tasks, the smaller size makes it much more difficult.

In addition to having access to appropriate technology, the student must have the ability to utilize the technology. This includes abilities such as:

- Sending and receiving electronic messages (including email)

- Accessing the Moodle learning software through a web browser

- Completing a biometric login using a mouse, touchpad, or touchscreen

- Writing a paper in a word processor, including the ability to format text and add footnotes

- Searching for resources using a search engine, including the ability to learn how to use search engines for electronic library resources