

# Setting Up Your Computer for BCH 5045

## Computer Requirements: Hardware and Software

You will need the following items to access and interact with the content of BCH 5045

### Hardware/Internet Requirements

1. Dedicated access to a computer using **Windows XP/Vista** or **Mac OS X**, with at least **2 Gigahertz P4 CPU with at least 512 Megabytes of RAM (or of similar performance)**.
2. Access to a back-up computer (work, friend or relative's computer) in case of equipment failure may be helpful.
3. A **high-speed Internet connection** is required. I cannot guarantee multimedia components such as streaming video will work on slower connections. I may not be able to distribute hard copies (e.g., cd-rom, dvd-rom) of multimedia items due to copyright constraints.
4. You will need a **sound card, speakers** or **headphones** to listen to presentations if your computer does not have suitable built-in speakers.
5. **1024 by 768 resolution monitor**

### Software Requirements

1. <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/10/default.aspx>  
Windows Media Player 10 or above or equivalent for viewing streaming video lectures on Windows XP- or Vista based PCs. After installing, you might need to restart your computer.
2. <http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/>  
Macromedia Flash Player – Some biochemistry content on the web may have A/V presentations which require Flash Player.
3. <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.htmlhttp://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>  
Adobe Reader – Many documents will be in pdf form which require Adobe Reader.
4. <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>  
Quicktime Video Player – Some Web-based resources may include video presentations which are only accessible using Quicktime.
5. <http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsphttp://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp>  
Java Runtime Environment – Some course content may require JRE.
6. MS Office or Open Office - All courses require either of these suites of business applications. Open Office is a free alternative to the MS Office suite. You can [get Open Office here](#).
7. <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>  
Firefox Web Browser - In order to simplify compatibility issues, we ask all students to access their courses using Firefox (not Internet Explorer or Safari)
8. McAfee Antivirus (set to auto update) provided by UF
9. E-mail software -- Microsoft Outlook, Mozilla, or other IMAP or POP email software may be useful, but WebMail is also available

10. **Instant Messenger™ (IM)**, if you connect through AOL, you already have Instant Messenger available to you. If you have a different Internet provider, you may need to install Instant Messenger. If you have a very recent version of Netscape, you may already have Instant Messenger on your computer. If not, you can download Instant Messenger by logging on to: <http://www.aim.com/index.adp> Follow the instructions. When you have Instant Messenger working, send me an IM. My screen name is DrGuy2. If I am online, I will reply and have a chat with you.

## Browser Settings

If your browser is setup to block popups and other media, you may not be able to reach either the Lecture slides page or the streaming video links page. Both are password protected by a JAVA script. When you click on Lecture Slides or the Link to Streaming Video Files, if the **password box** does not appear, you will need to allow your browser to display the password box.

If Internet Explorer default settings are on, you'll see the Information Bar when a Web site tries to:

- Install an ActiveX control on your computer.
- Open a pop-up window.
- Download a file to your computer.
- Run active content on your computer.
- Run an ActiveX control on your computer in an unsafe manner.

You will need to click on the Information Bar. You may get this message or one like this:

["To help protect your security, Internet Explorer has restricted this file from showing active content that could access your computer. Click here for options..."](#)

This message appears when a Web page on your computer tries to run a script or ActiveX control. Internet Explorer blocks this activity so that you can see how the Web page functions without the script or ActiveX control; often, you will be able to view or use the Web page without using the active content and potentially encountering a security risk. Because scripts and ActiveX controls are a potential hazard to your computer, you should be certain that you trust the publisher of the script or ActiveX control before you decide to give it access to your computer.

If you are certain that you want to allow the page to run scripts and ActiveX controls on your local machine, follow the steps below:

1. Click the Information Bar.
2. Click **Allow Blocked Content**.

The web browser will need to be supported by Windows Media Player so that you will be able to view the streaming video of the lectures. A link for the streaming video lectures can be found on the course homepage. Each week the streaming video files will be placed on the campus streaming video server. After one week, lecture files will be replaced with the next week's lectures. The streaming video files will be archived on a server in the Department of Environmental Horticulture. However, the server holding the archived streaming video files is **not** a Windows Media server. To access the streaming video lecture content, **the desired lecture file will need to be downloaded to your computer**. Once it is downloaded, you will be able to view the lecture using your Windows Media Player.

**WARNING: THE ARCHIVED STREAMING VIDEO FILES ARE VERY LARGE, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS 300-400 Mb.**

Depending on the speed of your internet connection, downloading the file will require long periods of time, and even longer periods of time if the connection is limited in speed.