

Using a Personal Macintosh Computer in Courses Offered by the Department of Management Sciences at the University of Iowa

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Summary: The Department of Management Sciences recommends that each student taking a Management Sciences course ensure that he/she has access to a modern installation of Microsoft Windows. There are many free and low-cost ways for students to do so. Individual professors may deviate from this recommendation in particular courses.

Although Apple Macintosh computers are quite popular among students and the general public, they do not currently enjoy wide adoption in the corporate world. As such, some software packages used in courses offered by the Department of Management Sciences at the University of Iowa are incompatible with Macs. Even Microsoft Excel, a common business tool with both Windows and Macintosh versions, offers more built-in functions under Windows.

In addition, it seems unlikely that Mac compatibility will grow in the near future. For example, one developer of Excel add-ins, Frontline Systems, reports on its website (<http://www.solver.com/using-frontline-solvers-macintosh>) that “there is virtually no chance that we would ever recover [our Mac development costs] from Mac software product sales.”

So the Department of Management Sciences recommends that each student taking a Management Sciences course ensure that he/she has access to a modern installation of Microsoft Windows. For students who own a Mac, this can be done in one of two main ways (besides just purchasing a Windows computer):

- install Windows on a Mac using one of the following
 - Apple Bootcamp (<http://www.apple.com/support/bootcamp>)
 - Parallels (<http://www.parallels.com>)
 - VMWare Fusion (<http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion>)
 - VirtualBox (<https://www.virtualbox.org>)
- use the campus computer labs
 - College of Business (<http://tippie.uiowa.edu/stsg/facilities/itc/index.cfm>)
 - University of Iowa physical (<http://its.uiowa.edu/labs>)
 - University of Iowa virtual (see <http://its.uiowa.edu/virtualdesktop>).

Please also note that Apple Bootcamp is free, and students can obtain Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office for free; see <http://its.uiowa.edu/support/article/3814>. In addition, a discounted version of Parallels is often available at <http://iowa.onthehub.com>.