Welcome to Athabasca University, Faculty of Health Disciplines!

The basic computing hardware and software requirements for your online learning can be found on the [FHD](http://fhd.athabascau.ca/resources/requirements/) website. However, increasingly, learners complete all, or some of, their online studies using their phone or a tablet. Whatever device you choose or prefer to use, you should be able to do the following things with it:

* Access the Internet using one of several browsers. The preferred AU browsers are Firefox and Internet Explorer.
* Navigate between multiple browser windows while working in the learning environment.
* Create and work on documents using Microsoft Word or an open source equivalent that saves in Word’s format.
* Create and work on presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint or an open source equivalent that saves in PowerPoint’s format.
* View and manage files in PDF format.
* Upload and download files (mainly Word, PowerPoint, and PDF).
* Store files (either on your device or in your own cloud account).
* Participate in videoconferencing. If you are on a laptop or desktop, you will need a webcam with both video and audio capabilities (i.e., speakers).
* Create, share, and upload videos.

For those of you who plan to use tablets or mobile devices to navigate through the course materials and activities, it is important to know that due to the variety of electronic platforms and operating systems, we cannot guarantee that these materials will work properly on your device.

In addition to these requirements, we have certain expectations about your level of computer literacy. Technical help is available throughout the program if you run into difficulty with our specific course resources; however, you are responsible to ensure that you have the technological skills and supports to use your own system effectively.

You are advised to purchase a headset that has noise cancellation features to support privacy and confidentiality when engaged in synchronous video meetings and to amplify sound on videos.

Again, welcome, and enjoy your study with us.