

## IT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MSPA PROGRAM

Here is a brief overview of several IT requirements that student do not always meet. In a distance learning program it is important to make sure that your computer resources are correct. Otherwise, you will have a frustrating time getting everything to work.

- (1) You need to have your own computer on which you will have the administrative rights. Some students have tried to use a corporate computer in this program. A corporate computer will probably work in some courses, but not all courses. One, some courses will require that you install software; hence you need to have administrative rights to your machine. Most corporate computers do not allow the user to have administrative rights. Two, in a SAS based course like PREDICT 410, your machine needs to have the ability to connect to a remote server (the SAS OnDemand server). Most corporate computers will not allow you to connect to a remote server.
- (2) You should be using Firefox as your browser. Internet Explorer, Safari, etc. are not guaranteed to be Blackboard compatible. In fact I know that Internet Explorer is not completely Blackboard compatible. Firefox can be installed on both Windows and Mac OSX machines (and Unix or Linux). See <http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/fx/>.
- (3) You need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader X installed. It's free and it's an easy install. See <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.
- (4) Mac users are strongly encouraged to purchase a copy of MS Office for Mac. Licenses can be purchased through the university at <http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/>.
- (5) You must be located in North America in order to be able to access the SAS OnDemand Server. If you are located outside of North America, then you will not be able to take PREDICT 410 at this time.