Technology Requirements

Significant aspects of the learning for all students, Residential and TouchPoint, will be facilitated through various forms of technological media over the course of your degree program. We require that you have reliable and steady access to the internet, specifically through BroadBand access that will allow you to participate more seamlessly in electronic classroom forums (LiveText), video conferencing, Podcasts, and chat rooms. There will also be times when you will be exchanging documents with fellow students and faculty and using open source software and/or Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Minimum Specifications:

- Access to a reliable high speed internet connection. We strongly recommend that you have access to high speed internet (DSL/Cable/T1). CAUTION: if video is present, which will be present in some capacity, BroadBand access is also necessary.
- Sound card;
- Internet browser set up to accept cookies and to show the newest version of a page. Firefox, version 1.0 or greater; or Internet Explorer, version 6.0 or greater; or Safari, version 2.0 or greater, or equivalent;
- QuickTime media player and/or Microsoft Media Player; and
- Disabled pop-up blocking software.

Recommended Specifications:

- All of those items above PLUS the following: Cable/DSL/T1 internet connection; and
- Screen resolution: 1024 x 768.

Software Specifications:

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or the compatible products such as OpenOffice (free: http://www.openoffice.org/about_us/new.html) or StarOffice (approximately $70: http://www.sun.com/software/star/staroffice/index.jsp); and
- Podcast software such as Quicktime, MediaPlayer, or equivalent.

Conferencing:

- Students should explore various telephone packages that will allow for free long-distance calling. Some courses will require approximately two hours of conference calls per week and additional weekend conference calls.
- Video conferencing – Meadville Lombard Theological School expects that video conferencing will be used as a teaching strategy over the course of your study. If you are making a computer purchase, we suggest you consider choosing hardware that includes a webcam as part of the package.

LiveText.com – Meadville's Electronic Archive for Coursework

Our e-community classroom forum, called LiveText, is where students and faculty interact prior to intensives meeting. Students and faculty use LiveText to upload assignments, papers, media, PowerPoint presentations, etc. LiveText enables students to archive and track electronic documents and assignments, participate in forums, form private on-line study groups, and even share ministerial formation sermons and documents electronically with congregations or groups. After registration, students are able to see and access their work from every class housed in a single space. Students are enrolled as a member of the LiveText electronic community upon registration and throughout their degree program. After graduation, students may choose to continue their registration at their own expense. Upon registering for their first class, students are emailed an access key to complete the registration process. Students will then be automatically enrolled for each class for which they register and the classes are only available during the term in which they are taught. Student work, however, is available as long as the student has an active account.