

Trailblazer Guide for Connecting to Online Instruction

Below are options to explore for use with online coursework if you have questions about how you'll connect and access instruction.

Internet Options

FREE AND LOW COST OFFERS FROM BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Many Internet providers are offering no cost or low cost options for students who need to take their classes online. Many of these same companies are lifting data caps, to make sure you can more easily download your course content. ***Although Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) does not promote or endorse any specific vendor, one of these options may work for your needs.***

Comcast

[Comcast](#) (link is external) is providing new customers 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service and free access to Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots across the country to anyone who needs them – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers.

For a map of Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi (link is external).

Charter/Spectrum

[Charter](#) (link is external) will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

Charter will open its Wi-Fi hotspots across our footprint for public use.

AT&T

All [AT&T](#) (link is external) consumer home Internet wireline customers, as well as Fixed Wireless Internet, can use unlimited internet data. AT&T is also offering Internet access for qualifying limited income households at \$10 a month through the Access from AT&T program.

PUBLIC WI-FI

Public Wi-Fi is an Internet connection that is available without cost at coffee shops, restaurants, airports, hotels and other places. Public Wi-Fi can be either secured or unsecured. We recommend choosing a secured public Wi-Fi whenever possible. Secured public Wi-Fi requires a password and is encrypted so users cannot intercept your data.

Note that the companies above are offering free access to their public Wi-Fi hotspots.

Device Options

DESKTOP, LAPTOP, TABLET DEVICE OR SMARTPHONE WITH CELLULAR SERVICE

You can use a desktop, laptop, tablet device or smartphone for most online coursework. Most content on AMSC's Brightspace (D2L) is available for viewing and interaction on smart phones, as well as on computers. If you aren't able to locate a high-speed Internet connection for a time, consider using your smart phone, if available. Recorded lectures, quizzes, and other content, should work on your phone, although some content might display differently on a smaller screen.

For a small, additional monthly fee, you may also be able to contact your cellular service provider to add service to turn your phone into a mobile hotspot that can be used with your computer.