

The following are the computer and software requirements for taking Solar Energy International's online courses.

Computer and Internet Requirements

Laptop and Desktop Platforms

- PC (Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10)
- Mac (Intel-based only, OSX 10.5 or later)
- Mobile Devices are only supported for viewing Podcast versions of the presentations

Hardware/Internet Requirements

- 1.8 Ghz or faster processor
- 2 Gb of RAM, 10 Gb of free disk space
- Minimum screen / monitor resolution is 1280 x 800
- Built in sound or sound card
- Computer microphone or regular telephone for Webinar or Live Office Hours participation
- High-speed Internet connection (at least 5 Mb download speed — [click here to check your speed](#))
- **Latest version** of Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, or Apple Safari
- **Enabled** cookies, javascript, Java, pop-ups

Special Considerations

- 1) Satellite, cellular 3G/4G cards, mesh wide area networks, and other similar “non-copper” or non WI-FI connections, while appearing to be high speed, will likely experience performance issues in this course. We do not recommend this type of Internet connection.
- 2) There are subtle differences among all browsers based on whether using a Windows or Mac computer.
- 3) The version of your computer's operating system and your browser version can also have an affect on operation.
- 4) Video buffering problems have been reported in some cases on slow connections.
- 5) The video/audio Playback Rate speed control dropdown menu is not available/functional using the Chrome browser.

Video and Audio Presentations

The lecture capture presentations are streaming video (just like Netflix® or Hulu® or Amazon®). To adequately view these lecture presentations, a high speed network connection is preferred. We suggest at least 5 Mb/sec. If your connection speed is slow, is unreliable, or if the connection is shared with other active computers or mobile devices (phones or tablets), you may experience less than optimal playback. If this happens, there are a three options: obtain a faster network connection, turn off all active devices other than the device used to view the presentations, download the presentations from Apple iTunes and view from a mobile device or the iTunes app on your computer.

Smart Phone and Tablet Platforms: Apple iOS Devices (iPod touch, iPhone, iPad) and Android Phones & Tablets.

For the best experience with Solar Energy International's online course content we recommend using a PC or Mac computer with a wired or WiFi Internet connection. It is possible to do all of the following with smart phones and tablets, however, we strongly recommend taking the quizzes on a non touch screen device to avoid unintentional changes to your selected answers:

- Take quizzes
- Read your textbook ebook version
- Download PDFs
- Participate in online forum discussions
- Check your grade book
- Complete questionnaires and surveys
- View video and audio presentations
- Some performance or access may vary

Required Software

- Microsoft Silverlight (video/audio//PowerPoint presentations)
- Adobe Flash (latest version for presentations & interactive exercises in some courses)
- Oracle Java plugin (latest version)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (viewing & printing PDF files)

Optional Software

- Microsoft Office Viewers (viewing & printing Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Visio files)
- Open Source Office Suite (viewing & printing Word, PowerPoint, Excel files)
- Apple QuickTime (viewing QuickTime video in some courses)
- Apple iTunes (podcast subscription)