

Installing Windows on Mac laptops using Boot Camp

Getting Started

Be prepared before you begin this process. Students should allow for at least 1-2 hours to complete this installation. Read all of the instructions before you begin and be patient.

If your Mac purchase is new, you can request installation support for Windows in Boot Camp at the closest Apple Store.

Students can also seek assistance at the AU Library at the OIT Drop-in Service (located on the AU Library first floor). If you contact Help Desk 202-885-2550 or helpdesk@american.edu, please specify that you are a Kogod student who needs help installing Windows on a Mac computer. Please note, OIT will do their best to respond to your installation related questions but during peak periods you should expect to wait; please plan accordingly.

Prerequisites

Before you begin, make sure you have everything you need.

- A Microsoft Windows install disc or disk image (ISO) containing a 64-bit version of Microsoft Windows 7 or later. You can purchase a copy of Windows 8.1 from journeyed.com* If you have access to a Windows machine to create a Windows installation media you can purchase the discounted [Windows 8.1 Pro Student](#) version.
- An 8 GB or larger USB flash drive that you can erase
- At least 100 GB of free disk space on your laptop drive
- Plan for about 2 hours installation time.

*If you want to install other versions of Windows, [check to see if your Mac supports this](#). If you're installing Windows for the first time, use a **full installation** (not an upgrade) disc or disk image.

Check System Requirements

Some versions of Windows require a certain processor, and more hard drive space and memory (RAM) than others. Check the documentation that came with your copy of Windows to find out what you need. Then use [System Information](#) to see what your Mac currently has.

Create a disk image of your Windows disc

When you purchase Windows, it either comes as a disk image file (ISO) or as an installation disc. If your copy of Windows came on a DVD, [you should create a disk image](#) of your installation disc.

Open Boot Camp Assistant

Boot Camp Assistant walks you through installing Windows on your Mac. Open this app from the Utilities folder in the Applications folder and follow the onscreen instructions to automatically repartition your startup disk and download related software drivers for Windows. When prompted, connect your USB flash drive.

Format your Windows partition

When you complete the assistant, your Mac restarts to the Windows installer. When you're asked where you want to install Windows, select the BOOTCAMP partition, then click [Format](#).

Install Windows

Follow the onscreen prompts to finish your Windows installation.

Restart your computer

After Windows is installed, you can switch between OS X and Windows. Use the [Startup Disk preference pane](#) in OS X, or the [Boot Camp system tray](#) item in Windows to select your startup disk, then restart your computer

Update and secure your computer

Boot to Windows and install all the Windows Updates that are available. Updates might require rebooting your computer a number of times. Download and install Symantec Antivirus from the [myAU Portal](#) -> Technology -> Download Software.

Learn more

For more information about using Windows on your Mac, click the Open Boot Camp Help button in Boot Camp Assistant. These resources also contain helpful information:

- [Boot Camp Help](#)
- [Boot Camp: Solve partition creation problems](#)
- [Boot Camp: Creating an ISO image from a Windows installation DVD](#)
- [Boot Camp: About keyboards and key assignment for Microsoft Windows](#)