

Authentication Options at Victoria College

This document provides information about what is changing with account authentication, authentication options available at Victoria College, setup instructions, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) about authentication.

What is Changing?

Beginning September 1, 2026, user accounts that are enabled for SMS or voice authentication may begin receiving prompts during sign-in encouraging them to register a passkey.

According to Microsoft's current documentation, these prompts are intended to encourage passkey registration and are not expected to block access.

On February 1, 2027, Microsoft provided SMS and voice authentication services will be retired. Users whose only authentication methods are SMS or voice will be required to register a supported authentication method to continue accessing their accounts.

To avoid interruptions, set up the Microsoft Authentication app or a YubiKey before February 1, 2027.



Authentication Options at Victoria College

Microsoft Authenticator

Microsoft Authenticator is the recommended primary authentication method for your Victoria College account. The app helps verify your identity when signing in. After entering your password, you may be prompted to approve the sign-in request in the Microsoft Authenticator app.

Note: Keep the Microsoft Authenticator app installed and available on your mobile device to help avoid interruption when signing in.

Physical Security Key

A physical security key, such as a YubiKey, is another authentication option for your Victoria College account.

A security key is a small, portable device that can be used to verify your identity when signing in. Depending on the device and computer, the security key may connect through a USB port or use another supported connection method.

Authentication Setup Guides

- [Setting up the Microsoft Authenticator](#)
- [How to Setup a YubiKey](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the College no longer using text messages and phone verifications?

Microsoft is retiring SMS text message and voice call verification for Microsoft 365 accounts. Users who currently use these methods will need to register another authentication method.

What is Multi-Factor Authentication?

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) adds an extra layer of security to your account. In addition to your password, you must verify your identity using another authentication method, such as Microsoft Authentication or a hardware security key.

Which authentication method should I use

Microsoft Authenticator is the recommended authentication method for your account. If you are unable to use the Microsoft Authenticator, a hardware security key, such as a YubiKey, may be used to authenticate.

What is a physical security key?

A physical security key, such as a YubiKey, is a small physical device you plug into a USB port on your computer. The passkey is stored directly on the security key rather than on your phone. This allows you to use the security key across different devices with a compatible USB port without relying on your phone for authentication.

What if I lose my phone or security key?

Contact Victoria College Computer Help Desk as soon as possible. We can help you recover access to your account and update your authentication method.

What is I do not want to use my phone?

If you prefer not to use the Microsoft Authenticator app for authentication on your phone, you can use a physical security key, such as a YubiKey, as an alternative method.

Can I use a passkey to authenticate?

Passkeys use Bluetooth for cross device sign-in, which may not work on most public or shared computers, such as computers in the computer labs.