

# Encryption: College-Owned Computer (macOS)

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This article reviews how to encrypt your **College-owned Mac**.

**Before You Start**, you may need access to the following:

- a stable internet connection
- an [eligible](#) college-provided Mac

Want to encrypt an email? See [Encryption: Emails in Microsoft 365](#).

## FileVault encryption: what and why

Not all devices are eligible to be encrypted. To determine if yours is, check if Disk Encryption is present in [Step 2: Encrypt](#).

- **What:** FileVault is Apple's built-in encryption program for Macs.
- **Why:** Encryption is critical to the security of your device, and ensures your data is protected in the event its lost or stolen.

## Encrypt your Mac

Note: The screenshots used below were taken on a device running **macOS Big Sur**. Prior macOS versions may look different.

Step 1: back up

Step 2: encrypt

Step 3: verify encryption

## Questions?

If you have any additional questions or problems, don't hesitate to reach out to the [Help Desk](#)!

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