Duo Two-Factor Authentication

Technical advances permeate the world in which we live today. Self-driving cars, streaming media, and regenerative medicine are just a few of the technology innovations that contribute to a safer, higher standard of living in our society.

However, these advances come with a price. Almost every day, we hear about another data breach leading to the theft of millions of identities. Passwords offer very little security for account access. User name and password combinations are very easy for cyber criminals to obtain, often by a successful phishing email, or through malicious content on a website. It doesn't matter if you're a Windows, Mac, or even a tablet user, you're still vulnerable.

At Smith College, ITS is now providing two-factor authentication to help you protect your account information. What does this protect? Your information in Banner, including your social security number and your personal financial information. It protects your email communications, access to your coursework, research data, and other electronic content including pictures and chat logs, and access to cloud-based services.

What is two-factor authentication? In addition to a password, the two-factor adds a small but very effective security step to your Smith login. This second step can be a tap on your smart phone or tablet, or even a phone call.

ITS discovers 20 account compromises every month, primarily of student accounts. What happens when your account is hacked? You may lose important files and documents. You may suffer personal reputational harm and a loss of trust in your online identity. Your account may be used to launch massive phishing attacks, and your account may be used to gain access to other non-Smith accounts that you may own. All is all, a hacked account can cause you untold anxiety and frustration.

Sign up for Duo two-factor authentication today. Visit the ITS website, follow the links for Duo, and protect your identity.