Introduction to Duo

Swarthmore College has partnered with Duo to provide added security to our community’s user accounts. By utilizing this additional security measure when logging into your Swarthmore resources, you and the rest of our community will be better protected against having data accessed by unauthorized sources.

What is 2-Factor Authentication?

Using your Swarthmore username and password is currently a way to authenticate your identity and gain access to many services on Campus. Having a 2-Factor Authentication (also known as 2FA or MFA) system adds additional identity verification by requesting something you know (your username and password) along with something you have (a mobile phone, tablet, landline, U2F hardware key or passcode). This system allows you to have secure access to your account while providing the most effective method for ensuring your account does not become compromised.

How do I login with Duo?

To login after enrolling in the new system, you will enter your Swarthmore username and password as usual when prompted. You will then be redirected to the Duo Authentication page, which will either automatically contact you for authentication using the default settings you chose, or ask you how you would like to authenticate if that is your default. We highly recommend always having Duo ask you which authentication method you would like to use.

If you are not already enrolled with Duo, you can do so here.

How do I add a device or change my settings?

We strongly recommend you set up at least two devices or “factors” (i.e., things you “have”). More is better and provides the greatest flexibility! It is strongly recommended that as you are completing the registration of a device that you choose to have Duo “Ask me to choose an authentication method”. This will make it easier for you to switch between methods and devices as needed.

The best time to set the “Ask me to choose an authentication method” option is during enrollment. The best time to add additional devices to your Duo account is immediately after completing enrollment. Both of these settings options can be changed from the Duo Authentication page, so they can also be accessed and edited during login.

You can find more information on where to find these options here.