

# How To Encrypt a MacOS laptop

## Introduction

College sensitive information stored on a mobile computing device is at risk for unauthorized access and disclosure if appropriate security measures are not implemented to protect the device against loss or theft of information.

The best way to protect College sensitive information is to not store it on a mobile computing device; however, it is recognized that storage of College sensitive information on a mobile computing device may be necessary in certain situations. In these cases, encryption provides protection against unauthorized access and disclosure.

This article provides instructions for using Apple's [Filevault](#) drive encryption technology to encrypt and protect data stored on Apple laptops.

Encryption must be used in concert with other security measures to maximize protection of information technology resources and of College sensitive information. Lethbridge College Information Technology Services has provided a **Mobile Computing Security** website that contains further information about other security measures.

For additional information, please see:

---

## Applicability

This article is intended for use by any employee or student who would like to safeguard data stored on an Apple Mac OS X laptop.

---

## Procedure

Please follow the instructions [here](#) to encrypt your macOS laptop.

## Notes:

- Ensure your macOS user account password(s) are strong. (See the College's [password guidelines](#))
- The macOS user account password unlocks the encrypted data.
- If at any time you have difficulty or encounter problems with this process, please contact the HelpDesk at 403-320-3202 or [helpdesk@lethbridgecollege.ca](mailto:helpdesk@lethbridgecollege.ca).

## Backup Considerations

1. Time Machine integrates with FileVault 2: <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT4811>
2. The Recovery HD must be present on your Mac's startup volume to use FileVault 2: <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT4718>

## Data Recovery

During the FileVault 2 activation process, a recovery key is presented that should be recorded and then securely stored. It should be noted that recovery keys can also be stored with Apple. AppleCare will disclose them after successfully answering previously enrolled security questions. This option may be used if you are working on a non-College owned computer. (For example, if you are using your own personal Mac for College-related work.)