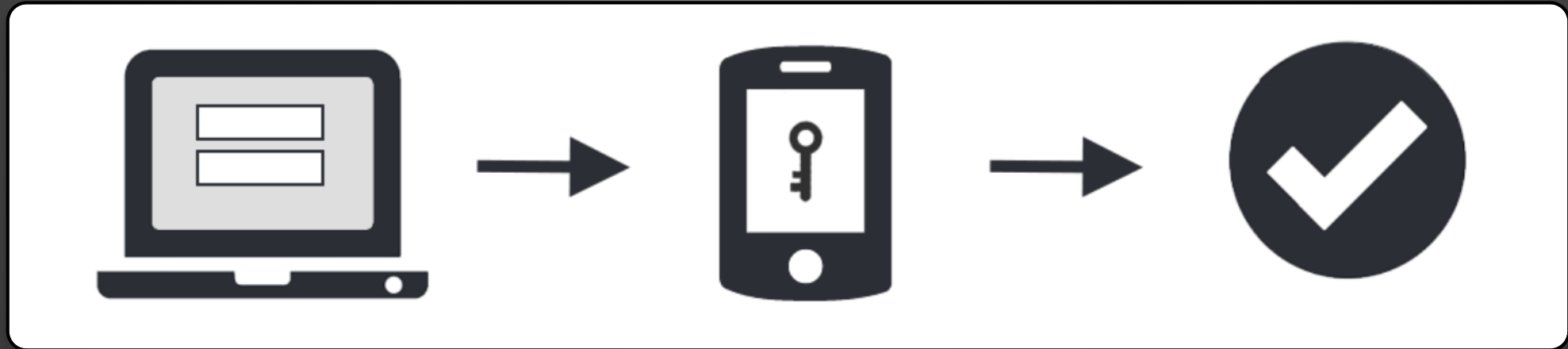


Passkey Deployment



September 2nd, 2026

What Are We Doing?



- Strengthening cybersecurity and reducing the risk of phishing, unauthorized access, and data breaches.
- The university is establishing upgraded Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) requirements for all users.
- New Supported Requirements:
 - ☐ Passkey
 - ☐ YubiKey
- Implementation Deadline is December 15, 2026

Why Are We Doing This?



- **Passwords are the weakest link** — most breaches start with a stolen, guessed, or reused password, which is why Passkey is passwordless, removing the password entirely so there is nothing left for attackers to steal or phish.
- **Phishing-resistant by design** — built on FIDO2 cryptography that cannot be intercepted, replayed, or tricked into a fake login.
- **Stronger than traditional MFA** — better defense against unauthorized access and account takeover than codes or push prompts.
- **Higher education is a top target** — nearby campuses have been hit by costly ransomware, from a 27-day shutdown to stolen employee data.

Recent Security Threats



- Northwest Arkansas Community College
 - Ransomware Threat in July 2024
 - Cyber Threat caused a 27-day system halt out of abundance of caution.
 - Lost Revenue due to hacking of Financial Aid Disbursement

- University of Oklahoma
 - Unusual activity on IT systems attributed to the Fog ransomware group in February 2025.
 - 91 megabytes of information consisting of employee contacts, financial data, and contact phones and emails of state senators.

What is a Passkey?

A simple way to explain the change without getting technical.

Stronger Security, Seamless Access

From your device to your account—two layers that work together to protect you.

1 WINDOWS HELLO The PIN to the gate (your device)



**Windows Hello
unlocks your
device**

Use your PIN,
fingerprint, or
face to get in.



2 PASKEY (FOB) The key to your house (your account)



**Passkey (FOB)
unlocks your
account**

Your registered
security key (FOB)
verifies it's really you
and opens the door.



**Two layers. One seamless
experience. Better protection.**

1

**Unlock your device
with Windows Hello.**

2

**Use your Passkey (FOB)
to access your account.**



**You're in.
Secure and protected.**



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What Is a YubiKey?



- YubiKey is a small hardware device that provides an extra layer of security when logging into university systems.
- YubiKey improves cybersecurity and protects against phishing attacks, unauthorized access, and data breaches by using hardware-based MFA.

What will change for me?

USER EXPERIENCE

Today

You may sign in using a password plus a code, prompt, or other multi-factor authentication method.

During enrollment

You will set up Passkey using a trusted device, such as a phone, computer, or supported security key.

After enrollment

Your trusted device helps confirm it is really you when signing in to UARK resources.

Important: Microsoft prompts to set up Passkey are legitimate and expected.

Key dates for faculty and staff

These are the dates employees are likely to see in campus communications.

TIMELINE

September 1

Passkey enrollment opens

October - November

Reminders and support

December 15

Target completion date

Campus communications and Microsoft prompts begin.

Employees complete enrollment and receive follow-up reminders.

Faculty and staff should be enrolled by this date.

Best advice: enroll early so you are not trying to complete setup when you need access to work systems.

Where to get help

Support will be available through UITS channels.

SUPPORT

UARK Help Portal

Use the Help Portal for instructions, knowledge articles, and support requests.

IT Help Desk

Support is available by phone at 479-575-2905 and through UARK support channels.

During the rollout

If you see a Passkey enrollment prompt, it is expected. If you cannot complete enrollment, ask for help early.



Use official UITS instructions and support rather than troubleshooting through unofficial channels.

Next Steps



- Open Enrollment
- Passkey Workshops
- Questions