

## Activating your Penn Highlands Account

You **must** activate your account to gain access to myPEAK, college email, and on-campus network resources.

If you need assistance during any step of this process, please contact the Information Technology Help Desk at 814-262-6470 or [helpdesk@pennhighlands.edu](mailto:helpdesk@pennhighlands.edu).

**Note:** Activating your account is a two-step process:

**Step 1 - Change Password** - You will first need to change your password.

- Log in to [Office 365](#) by entering your college email address which is your myPEAK user name followed by *@pennhighlands.edu* and your temporary password.
- After you log in to Office 365, you will be prompted to change your password. Follow the on-screen directions to change your password.

**Step 2 - Create/Edit Profile** - Once you change your password, you will be prompted with a screen that states **More information required**. You will need to set up a security profile by enrolling at least one mobile device such as a phone, tablet, and/or another hardware device.

To enroll you can utilize any or all the following methods:

- Microsoft Authenticator App on your mobile device (**preferred method**)
- Text message with code to your personal device
- Email message with code to your personal Email Address
- Or phone call at your desk/mobile phone



The **Microsoft Authenticator** app is the preferred method and helps you sign-in to your accounts using two-factor verification. Two-factor verification helps you access your accounts more securely, since passwords can be forgotten, stolen, or compromised, two-factor verification is an additional security step that helps protect your account by making it harder for other people to break in.

To download the Microsoft Authenticator App, visit the app store on your device:



[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.azure.authenticator&hl=en\\_US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.azure.authenticator&hl=en_US)



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/microsoft-authenticator/id983156458>

**Note:** You'll only see this prompt if you haven't set up the security info required by your organization. If you've previously set up your security info, but if you want to make changes, you can follow the steps in this how-to article [Add or update your security info overview](#) or visit <https://aka.ms/mysecurityinfo>.

If what you're seeing on your screen doesn't match the steps in this document, it means that your account is not set up for Activation. Please contact the Information Technology Help Desk at 814-262-6470 or [helpdesk@pennhighlands.edu](mailto:helpdesk@pennhighlands.edu).

**You will need the following information to activate your Penn Highlands Account:**

1. **User Name** - This was emailed to your personal email account that you specified on your College Application. You would have received this after you were accepted to Pennsylvania Highlands.
2. **Email Address** - Your Penn Highlands email address is your myPEAK user name followed by *@pennhighlands.edu*, for example, [a111a1@pennhighlands.edu](mailto:a111a1@pennhighlands.edu)
3. **Password** - Your temporary password is made up of the first 3 letters of your **county** name followed by your **zip code**.

For example, if you lived in Cambria County and your zip code was 15904 your initial password would be: **Cam15904** (*Please make sure to capitalize the first letter as your password is case sensitive*).

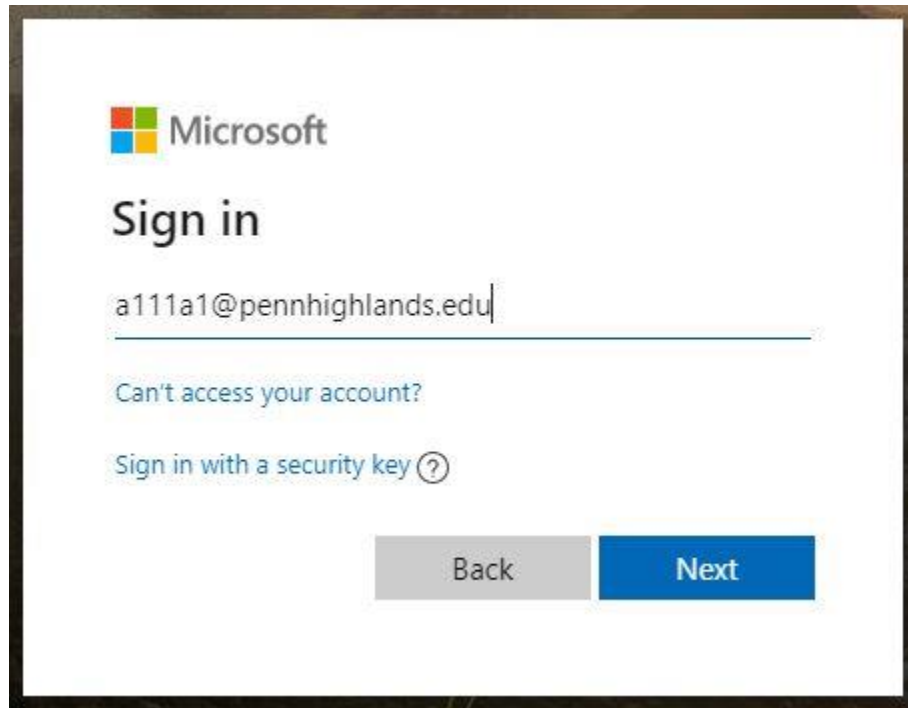
**Note:** If you are an out of state student your initial password will be made up of the first 3 letters of your state name and your zip code (e.g. Mar21517)  
For example, if you lived in in the state of Maryland and your zip code was 21517, your initial password would be: **Mar21517**

**Follow the remaining instructions in this document to Activate your account and Set up your security profile.**

## Sign-in to your Penn Highlands Office 365 account

After you sign-in to your Penn Highlands Office 365 account at <https://www.office.com>.

You will then need to sign -in with your email address and temporary password.



The image shows a Microsoft sign-in interface. At the top left is the Microsoft logo. Below it, the text "Sign in" is displayed in a large, bold font. Underneath, there is a text input field containing the email address "a111a1@pennhighlands.edu". Below the input field, there are two links: "Can't access your account?" and "Sign in with a security key" followed by a question mark icon. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: a grey "Back" button and a blue "Next" button.



← a111a1@pennhighlands.edu

## Enter password

Password

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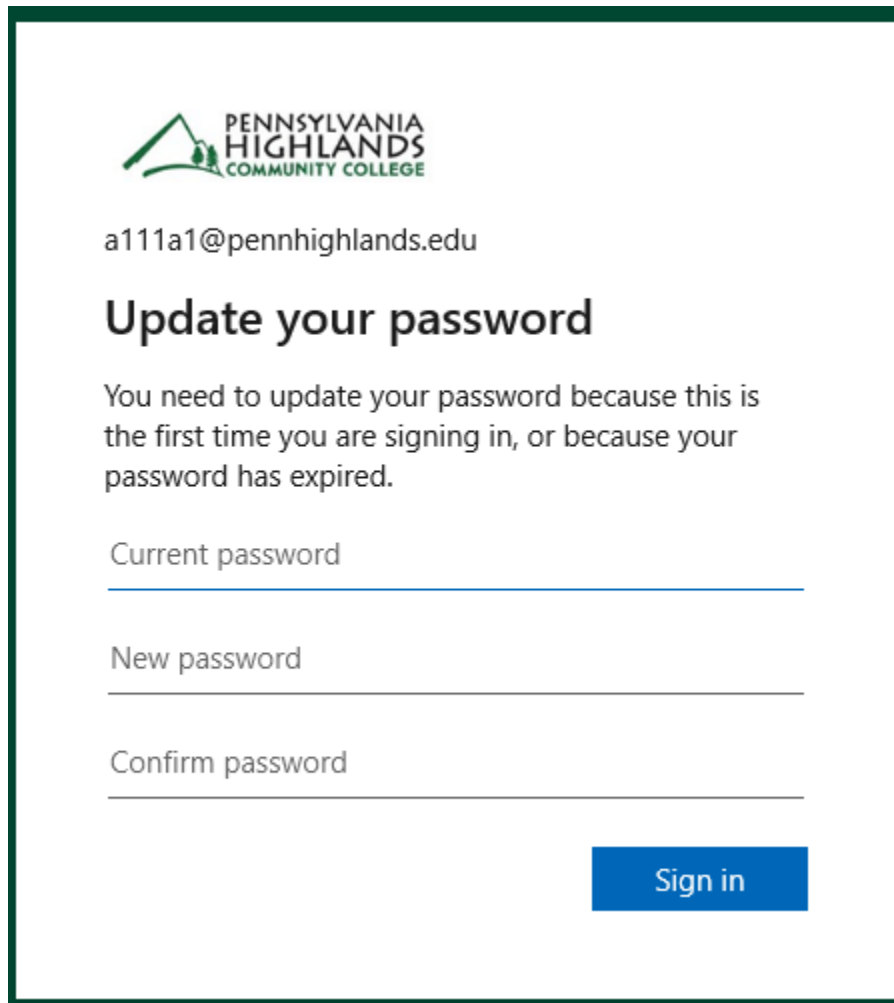
[Forgot my password](#)

[Sign in](#)

## Step 1 - Change your Password

Change your password by entering your temporary password, providing a new password, and then confirming your new password entry.

**Note:** Your Penn Highlands account password requires you to have at least 8 characters, that are both upper and lower case, and must include numbers and/or special characters. Your password cannot contain any part of your name, and you may not repeat any of your last 5 passwords.



The screenshot shows a web form for updating a password. At the top left is the logo for Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, which includes a stylized mountain and trees icon. Below the logo is the email address 'a111a1@pennhighlands.edu'. The main heading is 'Update your password'. Below this is a message: 'You need to update your password because this is the first time you are signing in, or because your password has expired.' There are three input fields: 'Current password', 'New password', and 'Confirm password'. A blue 'Sign in' button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

**More information is required** to activate your account. Click **Next** and follow the steps on the next page to set up your security profile for your Penn Highlands account.



a111a1@pennhighlands.edu

## More information required

Your organization needs more information to keep your account secure

[Use a different account](#)

[Learn more](#)

[Next](#)

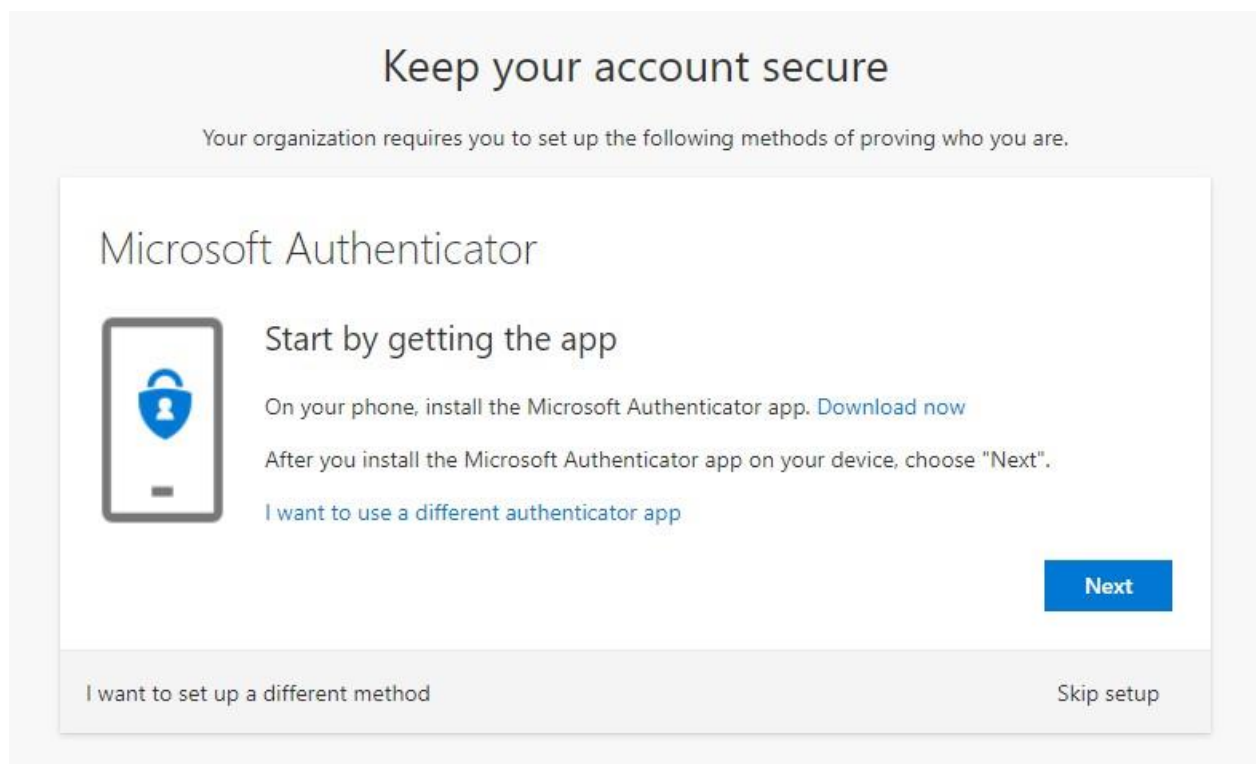
## Step 2 - Set up your security profile using the wizard

To setup your security profile you will need to supply at least one method of identity verification, but we recommend setting up as many as methods that are available to you. This way if one of the methods is not available to you, you can refer to one of the other methods to confirm your identity. Additionally, you will already be set up for advanced security features like Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), when that feature is made available.

1. After you select **Next** from the prompt, a **Keep your account secure wizard** appears, showing the preferred method for you to set up, which is the Microsoft Authenticator app.

**Note:** If you want to use an authenticator app other than the Microsoft Authenticator app, select the **I want to use a different authenticator app** such as DUO or Google Authenticator. When using these alternative authenticator apps, you will only be able to generate a code that you must enter. You will not receive notification messages on your device like you do with the Microsoft Authenticator App.

If you want to choose a different method besides the authenticator app, you can select the **I want to set up a different method link**.



2. If you have not already downloaded the Microsoft Authenticator app on your mobile device, please do so now and then select **Next**.



## Keep your account secure

Your organization requires you to set up the following methods of proving who you are.

### Microsoft Authenticator



#### Set up your account

If prompted, allow notifications. Then add an account, and select "Work or school".

Back

Next

I want to set up a different method

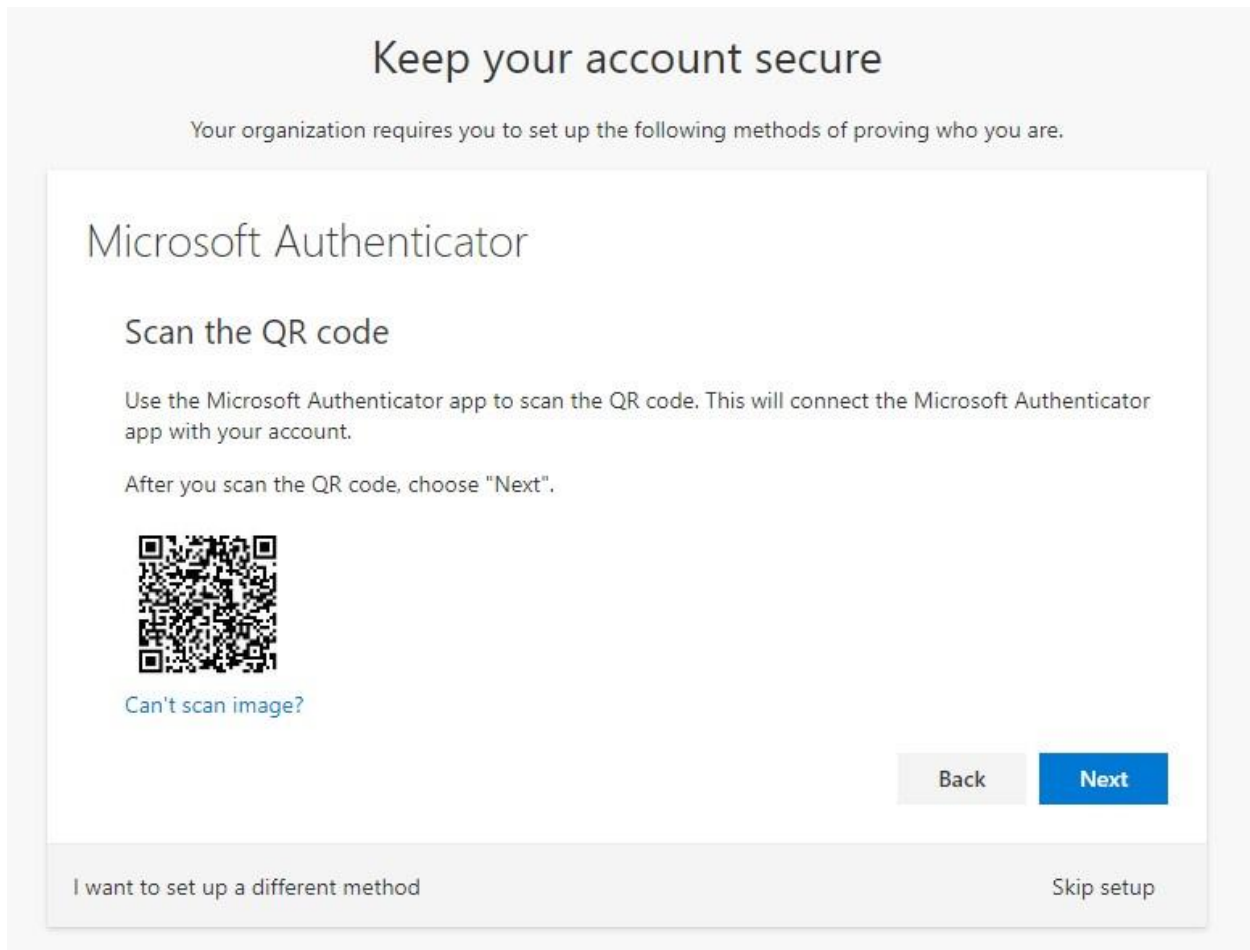
Skip setup

3. Remain on the **Set up your account** page while you set up the Microsoft Authenticator app on your mobile device.
4. Open the Microsoft Authenticator app, select to **allow notifications** (if prompted), select **Add account** from the **Customize and control** icon on the upper-right, and then select **Work or school account**.

**Note:** If this is the first time, you're setting up the Microsoft Authenticator app, you might receive a prompt asking whether to allow the app to access your camera (iOS) or to allow the app to take pictures and record video (Android). You must select **Allow** so the authenticator app can access your camera to take a picture of the QR code in the next step. If you don't allow the camera, you can still set up the authenticator app, but you'll need to add the code information manually.

5. Return to the **Set up your account** page on your computer, and then select **Next**.

The **Scan the QR code** page appears.



6. Scan the provided QR code with the Microsoft Authenticator app. The authenticator app should successfully add your work or school account without requiring any additional information from you. However, if the QR code reader can't read the code, you can select the **Can't scan the QR image** and manually enter the code and URL into the Microsoft Authenticator app.
7. Select **Next** on the **Scan the QR code** page on your computer.

A notification is sent to the Microsoft Authenticator app on your mobile device, to test your account.

## Keep your account secure

Your organization requires you to set up the following methods of proving who you are.

### Microsoft Authenticator



Let's try it out

Approve the notification we're sending to your app.

Back

Next

I want to set up a different method

Skip setup

8. Approve the notification in the Microsoft Authenticator app, and then select **Next**.

## Keep your account secure

Your organization requires you to set up the following methods of proving who you are.

### Microsoft Authenticator



✔ Notification approved

Back

Next

I want to set up a different method

Skip setup

## Keep your account secure

Your organization requires you to set up the following methods of proving who you are.

### Success!

Great job! You have successfully set up your security info. Choose "Done" to continue signing in.

**Default sign-in method:** Microsoft Authenticator - notification



Microsoft Authenticator

Done

Your security info is updated to use the Microsoft Authenticator app by default to verify your identity when using two-step verification or password reset.

You should be returned to your **Security Info** Page, if not browse to <https://aka.ms/mysecurityinfo>.

- To add additional verification methods, click on **Add method**. Select **Phone** from the drop-down list. This will take you to the **Phone** set up page, you must choose whether you want to receive a text message or a phone call, and then select **Next**. We suggest using text messages, so you must use a phone number for a device that can accept text messages.

**Note:** You will get the chance to set up another phone number to receive a call on in the latter steps of this process.

My Sign-Ins

- Overview
- Security info
- Organizations
- Devices
- Privacy

### Security info

These are the methods you use to sign into your account or reset your password.

**Default sign-in method:** Microsoft Authenticator - notification [Change](#)

+ Add method

Microsoft Authenticator	Pixel 2	<a href="#">Delete</a>
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The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Add a method". Below the title is the question "Which method would you like to add?". A dropdown menu is open, showing "Phone" as the selected option. At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: "Cancel" (grey) and "Add" (blue).

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Phone". Below the title is the text "You can prove who you are by answering a call on your phone or texting a code to your phone." followed by the question "What phone number would you like to use?". There is a dropdown menu for the country, currently set to "United States (+1)", and a text input field containing "123-456-7890". Below this are two radio button options: "Text me a code" (which is selected) and "Call me". At the bottom, there is a note "Message and data rates may apply." and two buttons: "Cancel" (grey) and "Next" (blue).

A text message is sent to your phone number. If you would prefer to get a phone call, the process is the same. However, you'll receive a phone call with instructions, instead of a text message.

10. Enter the code provided by the text message sent to your mobile device, and then select **Next**.

The image displays two sequential screenshots of a mobile application interface for phone verification. The first screenshot, titled "Phone", shows a text input field with the placeholder text "We just sent a 6 digit code to" and "Enter the code below.". Below the input field is a "Resend code" link and two buttons: "Back" and "Next". The second screenshot, also titled "Phone", shows a success message: "SMS verified. Your phone was registered successfully" accompanied by a green checkmark icon. A blue "Done" button is located at the bottom right of the screen.

11. Review the success notification, and then select **Done**.

Your security info is updated to use text messaging as a backup method to verify your identity when using two-step verification or password reset.

12. Review the **Success** page to verify that you've successfully set up both the Microsoft Authenticator app and a phone (text message) method for your security info, and then select **Done**.

## Keep your account secure

Your organization requires you to set up the following methods of proving who you are.

### Success!

Great job! You have successfully set up your security info. Choose "Done" to continue signing in.

**Default sign-in method:** Phone - text

 Phone

[Done](#)

13. To add additional verification methods, click on **Add method**. Select **Email** from the drop-down list. This will take you to the **Email** set up page, where you must enter the email address of where you would like the verification notice sent, and then select **Next**. We suggest using a personal email address that you will have access to for this option.

## Security info

These are the methods you use to sign into your account or reset your password.

**Default sign-in method:** Microsoft Authenticator - notification [Change](#)

+ Add method		
 Phone	<a href="#">Change</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
 Microsoft Authenticator	Pixel 2	<a href="#">Delete</a>

Add a method

Which method would you like to add?

Email

Cancel Add

Email

What email would you like to use?

PHCC@gmail.com

Cancel Next

An email message is sent to the email address you specified. Enter the code provided in the email message, and then select **Next**.



## Verify your email address

Thanks for verifying your pennhighlands.edu account!

**Your code is: 010967**

Sincerely,  
*Pennsylvania Highlands Community College*

This message was sent from an unmonitored email address. Please do not reply to this message.



### Email

We just sent a code to:

Enter code

[Resend code](#)

Back

Next

14. Review the success notification, and then select **Done**.

Your security info is updated to use an email message as a backup method to verify your identity when using two-step verification or password reset.

15. Review the **Success** page to verify that you've successfully set up both the Microsoft Authenticator app, phone (text message), and email as methods for your security info, and then select **Done**.

## Security info

These are the methods you use to sign into your account or reset your password.


**Default sign-in method:** Microsoft Authenticator - notification [Change](#)

+ Add method		
 Phone	<a href="#">Change</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
 Microsoft Authenticator	Pixel 2	<a href="#">Delete</a>
 Email	<a href="#">Change</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

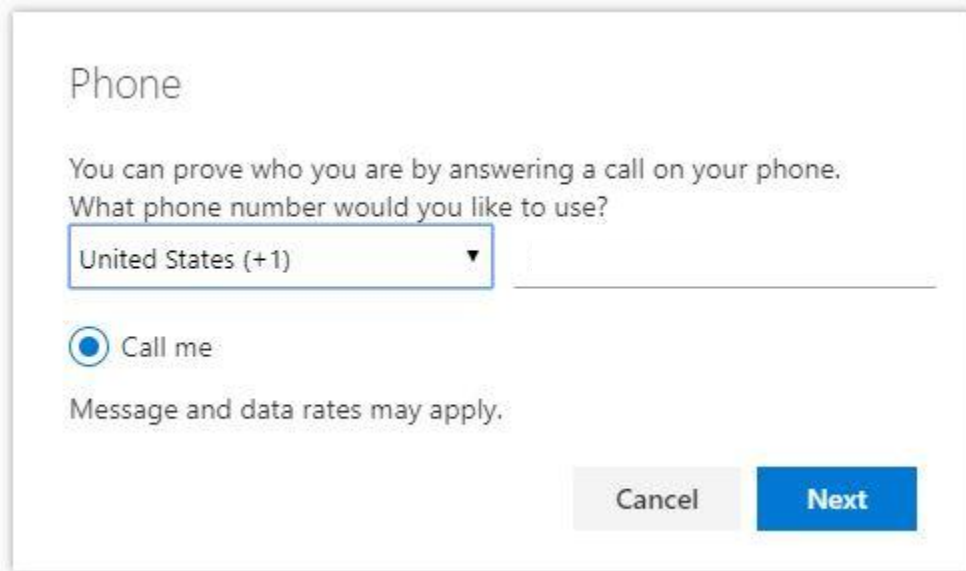
To add additional verification methods, click on **Add method**. Select **Alternate phone** from the drop-down list. This will take you to the **Phone** set up page, where you must enter a phone number of where you would like to receive the phone call to verify your identification and then select **Next**. We suggest using your home or office phone number for this method. Make sure you can answer the call for this method when setting it up. If you do not have access to this phone, you can always add it anytime by browsing to <https://aka.ms/mysecurityinfo> and run through the add Alternate Phone method.

### Add a method

Which method would you like to add?

Alternate phone 

[Cancel](#) [Add](#)



Phone

You can prove who you are by answering a call on your phone.  
What phone number would you like to use?

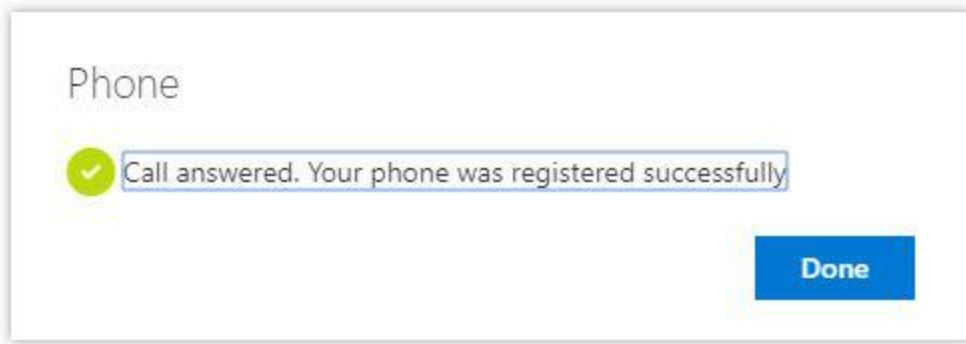
United States (+1) ▾

Call me

Message and data rates may apply.

Cancel Next

A phone call is made to the specified phone number. Press the # key to verify your identity, and then select **Next**.



Phone

✓ Call answered. Your phone was registered successfully

Done

16. Review the success notification, and then select **Done**.

Your security info is updated to use an alternate phone number as a backup method to verify your identity when using two-step verification or password reset.

## Security info

These are the methods you use to sign into your account or reset your password.

**Default sign-in method:** Microsoft Authenticator - notification [Change](#)

+ Add method			
	Alternate phone	<a href="#">Change</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
	Phone	<a href="#">Change</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
	Microsoft Authenticator	Pixel 2	<a href="#">Delete</a>
	Email	<a href="#">Change</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

17. Review the **Success** page to verify that you've successfully set up both the Microsoft Authenticator app, phone (text message), email, and an alternative phone as methods for your security info, and then select **Done**.

**Note:** Make sure you adjust the **Default sign-in method** to your preferred method, otherwise it will default to the last method added. Your list may vary depending on the methods you added or if you used a different Authenticator App.

Click on **Change** and pick your preferred method from the dropdown:

1. **Microsoft Authenticator App – Notification**
2. **Microsoft Authenticator App – Code**
3. **Phone – Text (Mobile Phone Number)**
4. **Phone – Call (Mobile Phone Number)**
5. **Phone – Call (Alternate Phone Number)**