

Multifactor Authentication Options for Research.gov Sign-in



Effective Oct. 27, 2024, the U.S. National Science Foundation implemented multifactor authentication (MFA) for Research.gov sign-in. See [Dear Colleague Letter \(NSF 25-011\)](#) for details. MFA training resources including how-to guides, video tutorials, and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) are available on the [About Signing Into Research.gov](#) page.

Users can still sign into Research.gov with NSF, InCommon, or Login.gov credentials but must use MFA per **Table 1**. Users signing into Research.gov with NSF credentials must enroll in an MFA method in Research.gov per **Table 2**.

Table 1

Research.gov Sign in Option	MFA Enrollment	Prerequisite
NSF Credentials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSF ID + Password Primary Email + Password 	Through Research.gov: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users must enroll in MFA method in Research.gov See the About Signing Into Research.gov page for a how-to enroll guide and video tutorial for each MFA method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users with administrative or financial roles must use a phishing-resistant MFA method Other users such as PIs and Reviewers can use a standard MFA method* <p><i>*However, NSF encourages all users to use a phishing-resistant MFA method</i></p>
Organization-Issued Credentials** <i>**InCommon Federation participating organizations only</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through InCommon Federation participating organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> InCommon organization must enforce MFA for system access on the organization's side
Login.gov Credentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Login.gov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users must use a phishing-resistant MFA in Login.gov

Table 2

	User Role in Research.gov	MFA Options Set Up in Research.gov
Phishing-resistant MFA	Users with Administrative or Financial Roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrator Awardee Preparer Awardee Certifier Awardee Financial Representative Proposed Postdoctoral Fellow Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) Sponsored Projects Officer (SPO) Foreign Financial Disclosure Report (FFDR) Preparer View Only (View Reports) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passkey PIN Fingerprint (biometric) Facial Recognition (biometric) Security Key
Standard MFA	Other Users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Investigator (PI) or co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) Other Authorized User (OAU) Reviewers (includes <i>ad hoc</i> reviewers, panelists, and other meeting participants) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Applicant GRFP Fellow GRFP Coordinating Official GRFP Alternate Coordinating Official (Alt. CO) GRFP Financial Official (FO) Users without roles including newly registered users, reference letter writers, and Education & Training Application (ETAP) participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Authenticator Okta Verify <p><i>Google Authenticator or Okta Verify free app must be downloaded and installed to mobile device.</i></p>

Note: Users with administrative or financial roles must use a phishing-resistant MFA. Other users can opt to use a phishing-resistant MFA.