

# Wharton Passwords: Guidelines and Tips

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This article outlines tips and guidelines for creating passwords for your PennKey and Wharton accounts. Both accounts share the same password requirements.

To change your password, see [Change / Reset Password](#).

**NOTE** - To help take the burden of complex passwords off of your shoulders, Wharton offers access to an encrypted password manager called Dashlane. Find out more about how it works and [how to sign up](#).

## Wharton Password Guidelines

### Password Length

Your Wharton password must meet differing requirements, depending on length:

Password Length	Requirements	Example (Do NOT use these for your actual password.)
20+ Characters	Any US keyboard characters.	<i>boldaugustpretzelcloud</i>
16-19 Characters	Upper and lower-case letters	<i>BoldAugustPretzel</i>
12-15 Characters	Upper and lower-case letters and numbers	<i>4Bold7August8</i>
8-11 Characters	Upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols	<i>\$4Bold78!</i>

### Things you can't use as your password:

- Easily guessed or known compromised passwords (example: 12345678).
- Your PennNet ID, username (even backwards), and your first, middle, or last name.
- Single dictionary words, even if they meet the length requirements.

### Refresh Your Password Frequently

You should change your password every 90-120 days (3-4 months).

## Enable MultiFactor Authentication

Whenever possible you should enable multi-factor authentication. Also known as "two-step verification", this will keep your credentials safer. See our article on [Two Step Verification](#).

## Tips for Creating a Password

Your password should be easy for *you* to remember, but should not make sense to anyone else.

- **No PII.** Avoid basing your password on your personal information like your birthday, phone number, address, or other personal information that may be publicly available.
- **Make it Long.** String together four or more unrelated words for a long, secure password.
- **Mask it.** Replace letters with numbers that look similar to make an easy to remember yet strong password.
  - For example, turn "Wireless" into "W1r3l3ss" or "learning" into "13arn1ng"

For more tips, see [the University's password guidelines](#).

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