

Wi-Fi Performance

Our Wi-Fi network is designed to provide fast, reliable access across campus. However, wireless performance can be affected by many factors – some within our control, and others within yours. This page explains what can impact your connection and how to get the best possible experience.

Wireless Interference

Wi-Fi operates in shared frequency bands, so other devices using the same frequencies can cause slow speeds, dropped connections, or higher latency. Common sources of interference include:

- **Non-Wi-Fi wireless devices**, such as:
 - Wireless HDMI transmitters
 - Bluetooth speakers and headphones
 - Wireless keyboards and mice
 - Game controllers
- **Personal routers, hotspots, and extenders**, which create competing networks that are not optimized to avoid interference
- **Microwave ovens**, especially when located near access points

When possible, use wired peripherals or turn off unnecessary wireless devices near your computer.

Device Hardware and Placement

Not all Wi-Fi adapters perform equally. Performance can be affected by:

- **Older adapters** that only support 2.4 GHz or earlier standards like 802.11n
- **Weak antennas** or adapters embedded behind metal cases or desks
- **Adapters without cradles**, which are limited by their position and can't be moved for better signal

We recommend using a **Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax)** adapter with a **desktop cradle and larger antenna**. These models can be placed away from your computer, improving reception and stability.

Environmental Factors

Wi-Fi signals can be absorbed or reflected by:

- Metal surfaces and filing cabinets
- Concrete walls
- Water (including aquariums and people)

Repositioning your device or adapter just a few feet can make a noticeable difference.

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