

THREE STEPS FOR ACCESSING ERA COMMONS USING TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION WITH LOGIN.GOV

A GUIDE TO LOGGING INTO ERA MODULES USING LOGIN.GOV

Follow these steps to successfully add two-factor authentication to your Commons account with Login.gov.

STEP ONE — Ensure you have an eRA Commons account with valid credentials:

- Make sure you know your eRA Commons user ID and password.
 - If your login attempt shows a message saying “The eRA credentials you entered are invalid...” then you typed the ID or wrong password. First try the [Forgot Password/Unlock Account](#) link located below the username and password fields on the eRA Commons home screen (*see screenshot below and [help](#)*).
 - If resetting the password does not work, contact an eRA account administrator at your institution for account assistance.
- If your browser is storing and auto-filling your eRA login credentials, note that browser auto-fill of credentials does NOT work in this process and you must know your eRA password.
- It is important to understand that there are two separate accounts involved in logging into eRA Commons using two-factor authentication. The credentials for each are likely different (unless you set them both up to have the same user ID and password). You need both sets of credentials in the procedure below:
 - **eRA Commons User ID and password**, which you possess prior to using two-factor.
 - **Login.gov User ID** (must be an email) and password, which you create using the steps below.

STEP TWO — Ensure you have a Login.gov account

If you do not have one, create one through the eRA Commons screen following the directions below; if you have a Login.gov account, follow [the alternate scenario](#) listed further below:

1. On the eRA Commons login screen, click on the Login.gov logo.



You see a *Confirmation Required* dialog.

Confirmation Required

Access to NIH/eRA systems is available via Login.gov

- If you run into issues with login.gov or associating your login.gov account with your eRA account, please contact the eRA Service Desk at <https://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html>.
- You can also refer to login.gov for additional help at <https://www.login.gov/help/>

For additional information:
[** Two-Factor Authentication: Accessing eRA Modules via login.gov](#)


Please select Continue to be redirected to Login.gov or Cancel to return to the NIH/eRA application login page.

[Continue](#) [Cancel](#)

2. Click **Continue** and you are redirected to <https://secure.Login.gov>.

The initial Login.gov screen appears.

LOGIN.GOV **NIH**



NIH is using login.gov to allow you to sign in to your account safely and securely.

Email address

Password [Show password](#)

[Sign in](#)

[Create an account](#)

[Sign in with your government employee ID](#)

3. Click the **Create an account** button. You see the Login.gov *Create Your Account* screen.

Create your account

Enter your email address

Select your email language preference
login.gov allows you to receive your email communication in English, Spanish or French.

☒ English (default)

☐ Español

☐ Français

☐ Check this box to accept the login.gov [Rules of Use](#)

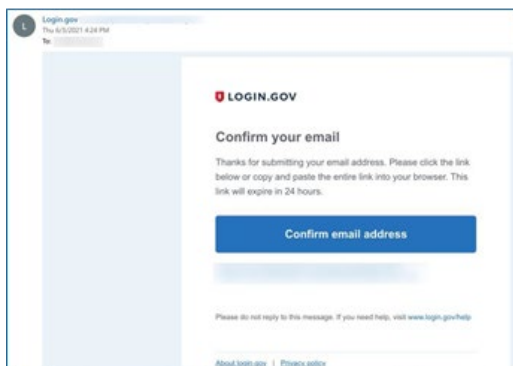
Submit

[Cancel](#)

[Security Practices and Privacy Act Statement](#)

[Privacy Act Statement](#)

4. Enter your email address, accept the Login.gov Rules of Use, and click **Submit**.



5. Confirm the email address in the email you receive from Login.gov.
You are returned to the *Create a strong password* screen.

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You have confirmed your email address

Create a strong password

It must be at least 12 characters long and not be a commonly used password. That's it!

Password ☐ Show password

.....

Password strength: Good

Continue

Password safety tips +

[Cancel account creation](#)

6. Create a new password for the Login.gov account. Note that this Login.gov password is distinct and different from the password for your eRA account, which remains the same.
You see the *Authentication method setup* screen.

Authentication method setup

Add a second layer of security so only you can sign in to your account.

Keep this information safe. You will be locked out and have to create a new account if you lose your authentication method.

Select an option to secure your account:

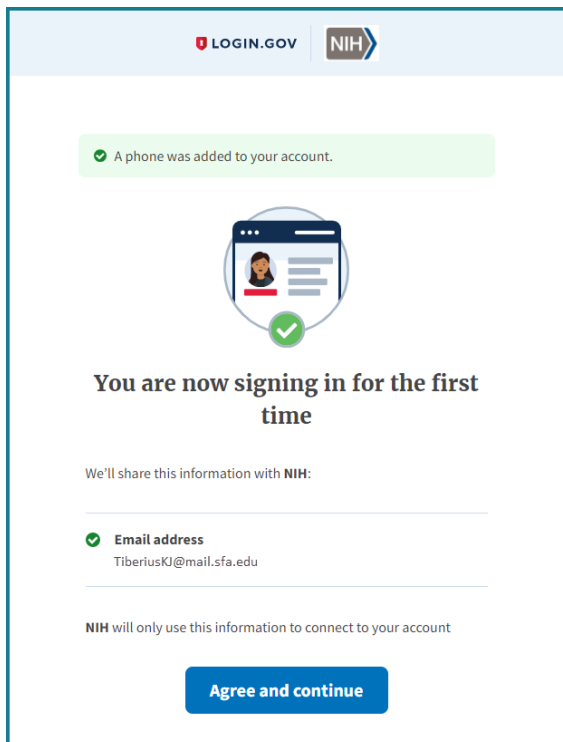
- ☐ **Security key**
Use a security key that you have. It's a physical device that you plug in or that is built in to your computer or phone (it often looks like a USB flash drive). Recommended because it is more phishing resistant.
MORE SECURE
- ☐ **Government employee ID**
Insert your government or military PIV or CAC card and enter your PIN.
MORE SECURE
- ☐ **Authentication application**
Get codes from an app on your phone, computer, or tablet. Recommended because it is harder to intercept than texts or phone calls.
SECURE
- ☐ **Phone**
Get security codes by text message (SMS) or phone call. Please do not use web-based (VOIP) phone services.
LESS SECURE
- ☐ **Backup codes**
We'll give you 10 codes. You can use backup codes as your only authentication method, but it is the least recommended method since notes can get lost. Keep them in a safe place.
LESS SECURE

Continue

[Cancel account creation](#)

7. Choose an authentication method (Example: enter your cellphone number to get a security code via text).
8. If you select the **Phone** option, enter the security code you receive. Other authentication methods have varying ways of configuring the authentication.

Note: Do not use a VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone for the Phone option; if unsure, then use a cell phone.



9. Click the **Agree and Continue** button and you are taken to the *Associate Your eRA Account* screen in eRA Commons.

Alternate Scenario: If you already have a Login.gov account

1. On the eRA Commons screen, click the Login.gov logo.
2. Enter your Login.gov email address and password and click **Sign In**.
3. Authenticate with the two-factor authentication method you set up and you are taken to the *Associate Your eRA Account* screen.

STEP THREE —Associate your Login.gov account with your eRA Commons account (one-time only)

1. On the [eRA Commons](#) screen, click the Login.gov logo and log in using your Login.gov credentials and two-factor authentication.



2. You see the *Associate your eRA Account* screen. Enter your eRA account credentials – user ID and password—to associate your Login.gov account with your eRA Commons account. **Do NOT enter your Login.gov credentials.**

eRA Account Management Module (AMM)

Associate your eRA Account

Authentication Source: LOGIN.GOV
LOGIN.GOV Primary Email Address:
 TiberiusKJ@mail.sfa.edu

eRA Credentials

eRA User ID:

eRA User Password:

Continue

INFORMATION!

- Please enter your eRA account username and password. Entering an incorrect password multiple times can result in your eRA account being locked.
- If you do not remember your eRA account username, please contact your organization's Account Administrator for help.
- If you do not remember your eRA account password or your account is locked:
 - Click on the **Forgot Password/Unlock Account** link and complete the Reset Password/Unlock Account process.
 - Once your account password is changed, you will be returned to this screen to continue the association process.
- If you enter a temporary password for your eRA account on this screen, you will be redirected to the *Change Password* screen to set a new permanent password. You will then be returned to this screen to continue the association process.
- If you enter a temporary password for your eRA account that has already expired, you will be redirected to the *Reset Password* screen to restart the Reset Password process. Once you complete that process and your account password is changed, you will be returned to this screen to continue the process to associate your LOGIN.GOV account with your eRA account.

This is a U.S. Government computer system, which may be accessed and used only for authorized Government business by authorized personnel. Unauthorized access or use of this computer system may subject violators to... [more](#)

If your eRA credentials are validated, then your Login.gov account is successfully associated with your eRA Commons account, and you are logged into eRA Commons.

This association process does not work without the correct eRA credentials or if a temporary eRA password is entered. If you are at all unsure of your password, click the **Forgot Password/Unlock Account** link in the blue INFORMATION box. You are presented with the *Reset Password* screen; follow onscreen instructions to reset your password, then click the link for the Commons home page. You are returned to the *Associate your eRA Account* screen, where you can now enter your correct eRA credentials.

Steps to Log Into eRA Commons (once the association is complete)

1. Go to the [eRA Commons home screen](#).
2. Click the Login.gov logo.
3. Enter your Login.gov credentials. (**Do NOT** enter eRA credentials.) Then authenticate with the two-factor authentication method you set up.

HANDY TIP: If you do not want to enter a code every time, click the box that states, 'Remember this browser.' If you use the same browser and computer to log into eRA Commons, Login.gov will remember these settings and not require you to complete the two-factor authentication process each time you log in.

The screenshot shows the NIH Login.gov interface for entering a security code. At the top, there are logos for LOGIN.GOV and NIH. The main heading is "Enter your security code". Below this, a message states: "We sent a security code to ***-***-1701. This code will expire in 10 minutes." There is a text input field labeled "One-time security code". Below the input field is a blue "Submit" button. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Get another code" with a refresh icon, and "Remember this browser" with a checked checkbox. Below these buttons, there is a section titled "Don't have access to your phone right now?" with two links: "Choose another authentication method" and "Cancel".

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Enter your security code

We sent a security code to ***-***-1701. This code will expire in 10 minutes.

One-time security code

Submit

Get another code ☒ Remember this browser

Don't have access to your phone right now?
[Choose another authentication method](#)
[Cancel](#)

Resources: See [informational webpage](#)

Find Help

- Contact [the eRA Service Desk](#), where experts are ready to help your navigate the process.
- See how to [manage your Login.gov account](#).