



Student Guide to Learning with Zoom

What is Zoom?

Zoom is OLLI at Ringling College's platform of choice for offering live online classes. Zoom offers the ability to teach and participate in an online classroom, with the quality of programming you have come to expect from your OLLI community. As a participant, you are not required to have a Zoom account and Zoom is free for you to use.

How do I join a class in Zoom?

After you have registered for class, OLLI will send you an email invitation containing a link to your class prior to the summer session. If you are taking more than one course, you will receive a separate email with a different link for each course. Each email will contain a unique link provided by Zoom for your specific course.

Together with the course title, you will see a link to your class meeting. Copy and paste that link into your web browser OR directly click on the link in the email invitation to enter the digital classroom. **You will use the same link to enter each class session.**

A Zoom account isn't required to attend courses. You can attend classes using your laptop or desktop (Windows or Mac), tablet, or smartphone (iPhone or Android).

- If you are new to Zoom, you might want to take a few minutes to become familiar with it before your first use. **You will have a free practice session with your instructor** prior to the first live online class, to become familiar with the Zoom classroom.
- If you plan to use a **laptop or desktop**, the first time you click on a Zoom link you will be prompted to download a free and secure program to your computer.
- If you plan to use a **tablet or smartphone**, you will download the free and secure Zoom application from your application store.
- **Please note:** We are utilizing Ringling College authorized, secure Zoom licenses for our classes. These educational licenses provide coverage by the College's firewall protection and additional security measures, as well as no class time limits.

[Click here](#) for a one-minute video about joining Zoom.

What equipment do I need to get started?

If you have access to a computer or mobile device, you are set to use the **full** capabilities of Zoom. However, at the **most basic level** all you need to use Zoom is a telephone.

Whatever option you choose, make sure that you charge your device during class. This will ensure that you do not have an unexpected power outage interrupting your learning.

[Click here](#) for a one-minute video about testing your equipment.

Note that different devices appear differently. If you are using a Mac, your screen will have a slightly different look than if you are using a PC, for instance.

To see what your on-screen experience will look like and how to solve common problems, click these links for device-specific information:

- [Click here step-by-step instructions for “Testing Your Video”](#)
- [Click here for step-by-step instructions for “Testing Your Audio”](#)
- [Click here for “Solutions for Audio Echo”](#)

Zoom is a great tool for connecting us when we cannot be together in person. Take time to enjoy its benefits and have fun this summer.