

# How to change your password from a Mac using Terminal App

## Before you start

**Step 0.** Before you do anything, decide what your new password is going to be. This is important. If you rush off to start changing a password without deciding what you're going to change it to and then suddenly realize in the middle of the process, you may very well forget what you changed it to later, or you may hastily put in a weak password. So, give it some thought ahead of time. I suggest you write it down temporarily before you enter it, to make sure you don't get it wrong. Choose a password at least eight characters long, containing a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and punctuation symbols (!@#%&,.;:?=+- are usually good choices). If you do write it down, DON'T put your password on a post-it note attached to your computer, leave it on your desk, or put it in your top drawer. Instead, memorize it. If you did write it down, do something very secure with the paper you wrote it on (burn it, eat it, shred it into ten thousand tiny pieces, put it in a safe, keep it where you keep other things you absolutely don't want anyone to get to).

1. Open Terminal App. It is in the Utilities folder, which you can access from the Finder by clicking on "Go." Once in the Utilities folder, double click on the "Terminal" icon to get a terminal window.
2. Type "ssh username@philosophy.tamu.edu" in the Terminal app terminal window and hit enter/return. (username here is simply your user name on the server, e.g. "a-philosopher" if your e-mail address is *a-philosopher@philosophy.tamu.edu*.)
3. You may get a warning message about accepting the server's key. Say yes.
4. You'll be asked for your (current) password. Give it.
5. If your password is expired, you will be prompted to change it. If not, then do the following: Type "smbldap-passwd" and press enter/return.
6. In response to "Enter UNIX password" type your current (expired) password and press enter/return.
7. In response to "Enter new password", type a new password and press enter/return.
8. In response to the request to enter the new password again, enter it again and press enter/return.
9. When done, press Apple key + Q to exit.