What is MFA?

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is a security method requiring two or more factors of verification to access various types of electronic resources. MFA is quickly becoming a standard requirement in most IT security policies, rather than a feature.

Why MFA?

MFA can provide an extra layer of security, above and beyond the normal and more prominent method of access, the username and password or pin. MFA provides a secondary method coupled with the normal credentialing process, to try and ensure the person gaining access is the person assigned that access.

How does MFA work?

MFA usually introduces a second challenge to the person seeking access, by asking for a second verification code that could be sent to their cell phone, email address, or require the user provide a second means of credential (i.e. USB key, RFID, Access Card, etc…) that is more physically tied to the person seeking access. This combination of authentication methods is step closer to ensuring the identity of requestor of access.

MFA at MUW

MUW is using a tool from QuickLaunch that is integrated with our Single Sign-on platform to help strengthen our security measures, and create yet another barrier against the onslaught of bad actors seeking to penetrate our systems. Our MFA tool provides two options for secondary verification, email and SMS messaging. If you select to use the email option, upon entering your initial credentials at the login prompt, you will be sent a verification code to your secondary email that you provided when setting up your initial access. You will then sign into that email, take note of that code, and enter it on the login page. If you choose SMS messaging, you will receive a text message with a verification code at the telephone number you provided at setup. Upon receipt of the code, you can then return to the login page and enter the code to gain access. Finally, after logging in using MFA, you may select to remember your device, so that you do not require the second verification every time.

If you run into any issues along the way, please feel free to reach out to your ITS team @ 662.329.7282!