Security Method Authentication FAQ’s

What is a Security Method?
Authentication using a Security Method adds a layer of security when you sign in with your WSU network ID. With your Security Method, first you enter your password, then use a Security Method device to confirm it’s really you.

How is Security Method authentication being used at the WSU?
At WSU, Security Method authentication is used to secure identities that have access to sensitive personal and institutional data to reduce the risk that this data will get compromised.

We use a service called Okta to perform the security method authentication. This service can use a smartphone app, a phone call, or a security key as a second factor to authenticate you. Most people use their Security Method via the smartphone app, Okta Verify, which runs on a variety of smartphones and tablets and is simple to use.

Why do I need Security Method authentication?
It has become increasingly easy to compromise passwords. They can often be stolen, guessed, or hacked, and you may not even realize your password has been compromised. With Security Method authentication protected services, a compromised password won’t mean a compromised account.

When do I sign in with a Security Method?
You’ll be asked to sign in with one of your Security Methods only when a WSU system requires it.