

Utilizing “Tech” to Maximize Learning

Given the pervasiveness of online learning, students may benefit from using their existing technology and devices to enhance their learning experience. For example, if you want to watch a lecture on one screen while you take notes on another screen – what are some options, especially if you only have your one laptop screen or one monitor for your desktop?

We’ve assembled some resources, approaches, and techniques that you might want to try. Many of these ideas utilize things you *may already have*. Other ideas may require you make a *modest financial investment (ranging from \$5 - \$50)*. While some of these solutions have gotten easier over time, not everyone is a gearhead – so don’t be afraid to ask for help from a friend, colleague, or the [Feinberg IT Help Desk](#).

Turning your TV in a monitor (free!)

If you have access to a TV, you might consider turning it into a second monitor.

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/blog/turn-tv-into-external-monitor/>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Use-Your-TV-As-a-Computer-Monitor>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Connect-PC-to-TV>

Phone to TV:

You probably already have a smartphone. You might consider sending phone video to your TV.

Android:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Connect-Android-to-TV>

iPhone:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Connect-Your-iPhone-to-Your-TV>

How to connect almost anything to your TV:

If you want to experiment with connecting other device types to your TV, this might be helpful.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Category:Connecting-Devices-to-Television-Sets>

Note-taking device (under \$40)

You don’t have to have an expensive tablet (like an iPad) for note taking. There are cheaper options like [this one](#) available. You might also consider a low-cost alternative like a Rocketbook for handwriting notes. A student at Boston University describes her experience taking notes with a Rocketbook [in this article](#). This [short video](#) shows you exactly how they work. For people who prefer to take notes by hand, this might be an option to consider. In addition, you might consider a [tablet technology](#) that integrates with OneNote.

Firesticks and Google Chromecast (under \$50)

An Amazon Firestick enables you to cast a lecture through your firestick to your TV.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Connect-an-Amazon-Firestick-to-WiFi>

Google Chromecast is also an option.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Set-Up-Google-Chromecast>

Cables:

So many cables! If you have a pile of cables sitting around (don't we all), you might want to see how and whether those cables can serve you.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Choose-the-Best-Cables-to-Get-the-Most-from-Your-Television>