A VPN (Virtual Private Network) provides a secure, encrypted tunnel from your computer to UHCL's network when off campus. UHCL offers VPN software to allow authenticated, secure access to many UHCL resources from home. To utilize this service, you must have:

1. A broadband connection.
2. Mac OS X 10.12 or higher (for these instructions; other operating systems have other instructions).

Support for VPN is limited. Read the entire document before proceeding and refer to the troubleshooting section before contacting the Support Center at 281-283-2828.

Verify that your normal home internet access is working. If not, you cannot connect to the UHCL network via VPN. The Support Center cannot troubleshoot or support your home (or off-campus) internet connection. Please contact your service provider.

Minimum Requirements

We cannot guarantee functionality or provide support for systems that do not meet the following minimum requirements.

- Operating System: Mac OS X 10.12 (or higher).
- Pre-existing broadband Internet connection, such as DSL or Cable. Dial up access is not supported.

WARNING: These instructions are not intended for use on your office's desktop computer. Computers on the UHCL campus are already connected to the UHCL network and do not require VPN.
Configuring a VPN Connection on Your Home Computer

1. Click on the Apple menu in the upper left corner of your screen and choose “System Preferences...” from the menu.

2. In the System Preferences screen, click “Network.”

3. In the Network screen, click the “+” symbol in the lower left corner to add a new network.

4. Select “VPN” from the “Interface” drop-down menu.

5. Select “VPN” from the “Interface” drop-down menu.

6. Change “VPN Type” to “L2TP over IPSec.”

7. Enter a name for this connection in the “Service Name” field that will identify it to you.

8. Click “Create.”
9. Use the following settings:

**Configuration:** Default
**Server Address:** vpn.uhcl.edu
**Account Name:** UHCL\YourUserName

Type your domain and UHCL User name – this is the same user name (or user id) that you would use to log on to your office computer on campus. Remember that for all faculty and staff the domain is UHCL.

Click on Authentication Settings

10. In the “Machine Authentication” section, enter UHCL in the “Shared Secret” field (all caps).

11. Click OK

12. Click on the “Advanced” button in the Network Preference window, and check “Send all traffic over VPN connection”

13. Click OK
14. You can connect your VPN connection in several ways. By navigating to your “System Preferences...” from the Apple menu in the upper left corner of your screen “as you did above.

- In the System Preferences screen, click “Network.”
- Click the name of the VPN connection in the menu on the left.
- Click “Connect.” This button will say “Disconnect” if you are already connected.
- If “Show VPN status in menu bar” is checked, click on the “VPN Status” icon on the upper right side of your screen and choosing the VPN connection from the menu.

Connecting to Your Office Computer

Once you have VPN properly set up and connected, you might be wondering how to connect to your files and applications on your office computer. Instructions are covered below for connecting your home Macintosh computer to your office Windows computer. To connect to your office Macintosh computer, please contact the Support Center for assistance as additional set up on your office Macintosh may be required.

Using Remote Desktop to Connect to a Windows-Based Computer on Campus

1. Download Microsoft Remote Desktop from the Mac App Store.
2. Install Microsoft Remote Desktop. UCT recommends adding this item to the Dock.
3. If you have added the item to the Dock, double click on Remote Desktop Connection Icon. You can also type Remote Desktop Connection into Spotlight, or from the Finder by choosing “Go > Applications."
4. You will need to input your computer’s name. This is based on your office computer’s property tag number and a letter designation. Some computers have different naming conventions than the examples below. Always verify your office computer’s name with UCT before attempting to connect to your office computer with Remote Desktop Connection. Append .uhcl.edu to your computer name to designate the full network name. An Example might be: B2300-D12345.uhcl.edu
5. Click “Connect.”
6. Input your Username and password, just as if you were logging in on campus.
7. Click “OK.”

You will be connected to your office PC. This is the recommended means of remotely accessing your computer. Using this method ensures full access to all your files, applications, and ensures that any items you update or change will get properly backed up.