USING ARCGIS PRO IN THE VIRTUAL LAB



When to use the Virtual Lab

- The DePaul Virtual Lab (VLab) runs ArcGIS Pro for you in Microsoft Azure, so you connect to it through your web browser or the Windows App.
- Use VLab if you have a Mac, a Chromebook, if you cannot install software locally.
- ArcGIS Pro is Windows-only and is not supported on macOS. VLab is the official Mac-friendly option and is managed by DePaul IS.

Connect to the Virtual lab

DePaul IS has outlined details on the setup guide for the Virtua Lab. Follow the DePaul IS knowledge base article for your operating system:

IS Setup guide: depaul.service-now.com/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=KB0010985

- On any operating system (Windows or Mac): install the Windows App (formerly *Microsoft Remote Desktop*) from Microsoft Store and sign in with your BlueSky Credentials.
- Mac users only: after connecting, set up Folder Redirection (linked in the guide above) so files move cleanly between your Mac and the VLab.

Save your work the right way

VLab storage is limited and may be wiped during periods of inactivity. Treat the VLab like a workspace, not permanent storage.

- DO THIS: copy your project folder into the VLab, work on it there, then copy it back to OneDrive when your session ends.
- AVOID: opening project files directly from OneDrive while in ArcGIS Pro. Esri does not support cloud-storage paths and ArcGIS Pro will lag or crash.
- If you need more than ~20 GB of space, use a campus computer instead.

Check your licensed extensions

Your DePaul ArcGIS account is pre-assigned an ArcGIS Pro license level (Basic, Standard, or Advanced) and any extensions your courses use (e.g., Spatial Analyst, 3D Analyst). They become available automatically when you sign in to ArcGIS Pro — no setup required.

- To see what you have, open ArcGIS Pro → `Settings` (gear icon, bottom-left) → `Licensing`. Anything marked `Yes` is yours to use.

If you run into any issues in Virtual Lab, you can reach out to DePaul IS – Get Help! (←link)