



ARC

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER
at Harvard University

LEARNING ONLINE

using your phone

If you need to use your smartphone to attend class, there are some things you might want to consider.



- While you can do almost all the same things on the Zoom app as you can on a desktop computer, there are some differences in their functions. Check out Zoom's page on how the two compare, so you're aware of any important differences.
- Turn off banner notifications, since these may be particularly distracting during lecture or a discussion.
- Act as if you are on a desktop computer even if you are on a phone. Refrain from walking around during class; this can be distracting to your instructor and peers. Try to find a quiet environment, if possible.
- Don't try to take notes on your phone as you attend lecture. Prop up your phone and use a computer or notebook to write down anything you need to remember.
- Alert your instructor that you need to attend class from your phone. Sometimes instructors send documents over the chat function, which may be difficult to download or open on a mobile device, so giving them a heads up is a good idea.
- Make sure your battery is fully charged before class and keep an eye on your data plan if you're using it. Ask your carrier if they will remove data charges incurred during remote learning.
- Hosting on Zoom is trickier if you're on a mobile phone. Consider letting someone else do it if you're planning a virtual study group.