HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) is a digital connection capable of transmitting high-definition video and high-resolution audio through a single cable. A list of classrooms with HDMI source options is included below.

**How do I use HDMI?**

- Connect the HDMI cable in the tech pocket at the instructor station to the HDMI port in your laptop (or use the Mini DisplayPort-to-HDMI adapter connected to the HDMI cable).
- Select the “HDMI Laptop” source button on the control panel.
- When the button stops blinking, start the laptop. Note: If the HDMI source produces inadequate display or no audio, use the VGA connection. Using the VGA connection may require a user-provided adapter.
- If laptop sound is not coming through the system when using the HDMI connection, please consult these troubleshooting tips.

**iPads and other devices not using the Mini DisplayPort adapter:**

- Connect HDMI cable in the tech pocket at the instructor station to the user-supplied adapter. Connect the adapter to your laptop.
- Select the “HDMI Laptop” source button on the control panel.
- When the button stops blinking, start the laptop. Note: If the HDMI source produces inadequate display, use the VGA connection instead. Using the VGA connection requires a user-provided adapter.

**Why should I use HDMI?**

- Better overall quality digital display, especially useful for high-resolution images or video,
- Only need to connect a single cable for transmitting both audio and video,
- Uses an easier cable, less prone to damage than a VGA cable,
- Little or no user adjustments are needed after connection, as devices using HDMI typically sense other devices and automatically adjust to the proper resolution. However, rooms with multiple projectors will not currently distribute video from Apple devices using HDMI
- As HDMI becomes more standardized, more content and devices are created for this type of compact and simple display connection.
HDMI Availability in OCM Classrooms

Which classrooms currently have an HDMI source option?

OCM is continually updating the classroom equipment as it reaches the end of its planned life-cycle and the HDMI input will be added whenever possible. This feature currently exists in over half the classroom inventory.

There are several ways to determine if the classroom you are scheduled in has this feature:

- the HDMI Laptop option will be available on the control panel in the classroom,
- review the specific classroom [instruction document](#)
- email your inquiry to OCM at [classrm@umn.edu](mailto:classrm@umn.edu)

*Note: The success of Apple laptops and iPad connections varies with the classroom infrastructure. Rooms with multiple projectors will not currently distribute video from Apple devices using HDMI. Use the VGA connection when the HDMI source selection is not producing adequate results.*

Will HDMI connections be deployed to all classrooms?

No. While the goal is to equip as many classrooms as possible with HDMI, not all buildings or rooms have the technical infrastructure to support the specifications needed for high-definition output. Many other factors (such as user demand, budget, and technology evolution) will also determine whether HDMI connections are capable of being installed during technology upgrades. OCM will review each room for possible HDMI capability during the room’s scheduled technology lifecycle review.

Will VGA display connections be discontinued from classrooms?

OCM Projection-Capable Classroom systems use VGA connections as its standard computer video interface. As the computer industry transitions to digital connections such as HDMI, OCM has begun to offer HDMI connections in classroom technology systems alongside the current standard VGA connection. OCM will continue to evaluate computer connection standards as the industry evolves.

Windows PC laptops have traditionally used the VGA connection for video signals to monitors and projectors. As the computer industry transitions to all-digital connections, HDMI ports are becoming more common on Windows laptop computers. While some laptops continue to offer the legacy VGA connection along with the newer HDMI connection, we anticipate VGA connections to be discontinued in the near future. OCM has not found satisfactory methods of converting HDMI to VGA on most PC laptop computers. If you have any questions about using HDMI in general purpose classrooms, please contact the Classroom Support Hotline: 612-625-1086 or classrm@umn.edu.