

3D printing FAQ (Helpful for website):

What is 3D Printing?

A process of creating three-dimensional objects from a digital file. Instead of cutting or drilling material (as in traditional manufacturing), 3D printing builds objects layer by layer using materials like plastic, resin, metal, or even food or living cells.

How much does it cost?

At LPL, we're proud to offer free access to our 3D printing equipment & materials. There are no fees or hidden costs—just an open invitation to explore, create, and learn. Our goal is to continually introduce innovative resources like 3D printing and ensure they are accessible to everyone, regardless of experience or background. Whether you're a student, artist, entrepreneur, or curious maker, we welcome you to use this technology and be part of a creative, forward-thinking community."

What can be printed?

With 3D printing, the possibilities are virtually endless, limited only by your creativity. These printers are being used in countless ways across everyday life.

Some examples of what can be 3D printed include, but are not limited to: practical items (phone stands, key holders, hooks & knobs), creative projects (sculptures, figurines, cosplay props, jewelry, art pieces), prototypes (product prototypes for design testing, engineering parts, machine components, architectural models), educational tools (molecule models, DNA structures, math and geometry aids, replicas of historical artifacts) medical devices (prosthetics, orthotics, custom grips anatomical models for training) larger scale items (furniture parts, building components, tools).

What cannot be printed?

LPL does not permit the printing of weapons or items that infringe on trademarks or copyrights. Additionally, staff will not sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), and all printed materials are produced in a public, shared environment. The items must comply with the Longmont Library's Standards of Behavior Policy.

Who can operate the printer?

Both patrons and staff are welcome to operate the 3D printer. To reserve time on the printer, users must first complete an application and attend a brief, staff-led crash course. The printer is available to all community members, regardless of age. However, for users under the age of 16, a parent or guardian must be present during the crash course and complete the application on their behalf.

How can I get started with 3D Printing modeling?

The easiest way to get started in the world of 3D modeling is to research various online resources like YouTube, TinkerCAD, blender. Our recommendation is to start research on YouTube using "3D modeling in TinkerCAD" as the search term. If you're feeling ambitious, Blender can be used to create extremely complicated models that will elevate your experience.

Can someone else use my account to print a model?

Use of the 3D printer requires the user to have a library account. Accounts need to belong to the person making the reservation. If you do not have an account and wish to have a friend's account, make a reservation, they need to be with you for the reservation.

My print came out defected, can I reprint?

Reprinting of a design is permitted within your 5-hour reservation window. If your print requires additional time, you'll need to schedule a new reservation during the following week. All reprints must be approved by staff in advance. If your design is defective, please notify staff at the Computer Lab or Reference Desk for assistance.

****Please note that LPL staff are not responsible for any defects or issues with printed items.**

What's the late policy?

As per our policy, patrons have 30 minutes to check in for their reservation. Check-in must be done with a staff member at either the Computer Lab or Reference Desk within the first 30 minutes of your scheduled time. Failure to check in within this window will result in automatic cancellation of your booking, and you will need to reschedule. If you are unable to attend your reservation, please notify staff at least 24 hours in advance. After two instances of no-shows without prior notice, you will be unable to make reservations for up to one month.