

Starting January 2026, all student-supplied filament must meet specific material and quality standards to be used in the print lab. This change is designed to enhance the reliability and success of your 3D printing projects. Below is everything you need to know to make sure your filament works safely and reliably in our printers. If anything is unclear, reach out to Anemone Rishel (ajri251@uky.edu)—they are happy to help.

Self-Provided Filament Requirements:

To be accepted in the Print Lab, all filament must follow these standards:

- PLA only (Standard PLA)
 - 1.75 mm diameter
 - 1 kg spool
 - Filament must arrive on a spool
 - Purchased from one of the approved vendors listed below
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Approved Vendors:

These sources carry filament that works consistently in our machines:

Compleet3D (Preferred Vendor)

In-person store

405 S Limestone #108, Lexington, KY 40508

<https://compleet3d.com>

The team here can help you pick the right filament and answer basic questions.

Bambu Studio

3D Printer Filament | Bambu Lab US Store

<https://us.store.bambulab.com/collections/filament>

Recommended: PLA Basic | Bambu Lab US Store

<https://us.store.bambulab.com/products/pla-basic?variant=40621942165672>

Hatchbox

High Quality 1.75 mm Filament – HATCHBOX 3D

<https://hatchbox3d.com/collections/pla>

Recommended: White PLA That Will Surely Get Your Prints Done – HATCHBOX 3D

<https://hatchbox3d.com/products/pla-1-75mm-filament-3d-printer-1kg-spool-white-1>

Polymaker

Functional PLA – Polymaker US

<https://us.polymaker.com/collections/pla/products/polylite-pla-pro?variant=39715618445650>

Recommended: PolyLite™ PLA Pro – Polymaker US

About Filament Types

PLA comes in many variations. Standard PLA is required, but some versions—like matte or glossy finishes—behave differently when printing. If you want to try a special PLA, check with Print Lab staff before buying it.

Other materials (TPU, PETG, etc.) also require approval before purchase, since they may not work on all of our machines.

If your spool runs out before your job finishes, the printer will switch to Pay-To-Print filament automatically so your print can complete without interruption.

Filament We Cannot Accept

Please avoid bringing filament that meets any of these conditions:

- Brands not listed above
- ABS filament
- Filament older than 6 months
- Filament without a label or receipt

Why These Guidelines Exist

The Print Lab keeps Pay-To-Print costs low by purchasing filament in bulk and storing it in a controlled environment. This helps maintain predictable print quality and reduces failed prints. Filament naturally absorbs moisture over time—older or unverified filament is far more likely to clog or damage the printers. Staying within the approved list protects your project, the machines, and everyone else's ability to print.

If you need help choosing filament or want someone to review your selection before you buy it, please reach out any time.