

Collaborate – A Virtual Classroom Option

Collaborate is a Blackboard tool for virtual classrooms

What is Collaborate?

The screenshot displays the Blackboard Collaborate interface. On the left is a blue sidebar with navigation options: Marketing Management Spring 2016, Announcements, Syllabus & Course Info, Assignments, Weekly Status Meeting Schedule Wiki, Groups (with Collaborate selected), Contact Information, My Grades, Resources, Tools, Discussions, Blackboard Training, Instructor Blackboard Training, and Help. Below the sidebar is a 'COURSE MANAGEMENT' section with a 'Control Panel' and various tool links like Files, Course Tools, Evaluation, Grade Center, Users and Groups, Customization, and Packages and Utilities.

The main content area is titled 'Blackboard Collaborate' and features three room cards: 'Marketing Management Sp...' with a 'Join Room' button, 'Pamela Culver's Room' with a 'Join Room' button, and a 'Schedule a Session' button with a 'Create Session' button. Below these cards are tabs for 'SCHEDULED SESSIONS' and 'RECORDINGS'. A search bar is present with fields for 'Search', 'Start Date' (03/30/2016), 'End Date' (04/05/2016), and a 'Go' button.

The 'SCHEDULED SESSIONS' table lists the following data:

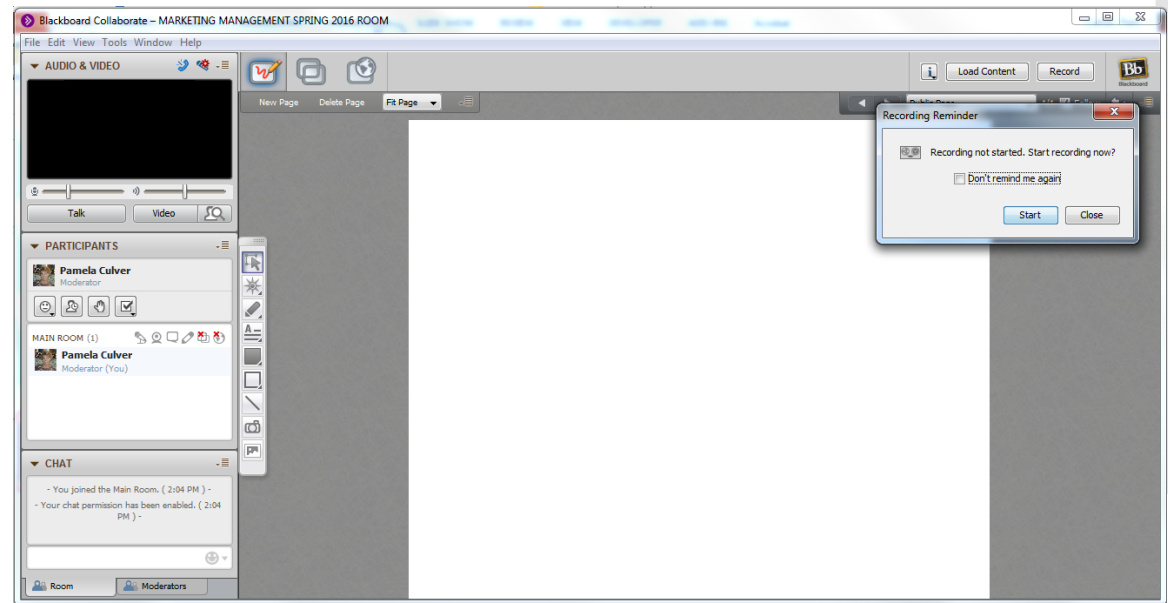
Available	Title	Start Date	End Date	Creator	Session Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	Happy Tails -1	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Happy Tails -2	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 3:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile Meals Recipient -1	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile Meals Recipient -2	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile Meals Volunteers -1	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobile Meals Volunteers -2	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Computer -1	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Computer -2	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Computer -3	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:15:00 PM CST	Friday, April 29, 2016 3:15:00 PM CDT	Pamela Culver	Course

Blackboard Collaborate

- Tool similar to web conferencing (Web Ex, Go To Meeting, etc.)
- Allows students to:
 - Join class remotely and participate live
 - Watch recorded session if absent or as a review
 - Facilitate/participate in group meetings remotely
- Students gain experience and hands-on skills of participating in and facilitating remote meetings
- Instructors can offer:
 - Online office hours
 - Virtual sessions for online students to participate live or watch later
 - Create a 24/7 session for group if you have group projects

Collaborate Functions

- Audio
- Video
- Slideshare/PowerPoint
- Whiteboard/Smartboard
- Computer Share
- Internet/web site access
- Public chat
- Private chat (enable/disable)
- Break out rooms
- Distribute handouts
- Conduct quizzes
- Student presentations
- Class discussions



Suggested Equipment

- **Instructor Microphone**

- Radio Shack Wireless Lapel Microphone System
Model # 3201257 Amazon.com \$105
- Cable to connect microphone system to computer
3.5mm Mono Male to 1/4 IN Mono Male - 6 FT
www.showmecables.com \$6



- **Classroom Microphone for class discussions**

- MXL AC404 USB Conference Microphone
Amazon.com \$77.50



- **Camera**

- Logitech c920 HD Pro Webcam
Amazon.com \$60
- Amazon Basics 60" Tripod with case
Amazon.com \$22



Why Use Collaborate?

- **Face-to-Face and Blended Classes**

- Student conflicts with work
 - Participate live with headset from work computer with permission
 - Watch recorded Collaborate session (if college purchases storage space)
- Student or child ill, hospitalized or Student traveling
 - Participate live with headset from iPad, laptop
 - Watch recorded Collaborate session (if college purchases storage space)
- Childcare does not show up, weather problems, or car problems
 - Participate live from home with internet access and laptop. Microphone is useful but not necessary with the chat feature.
- Meetings outside of class with group on a project
 - Instructor sets up session through last day of term (see slide 2)
 - Students have access at their convenience 24 x 7
- Students can watch recorded sessions
 - Revisit a concept they are confused about
 - Review for exam

Why Use Collaborate?

- **Online Classes**

- Provide virtual office hours
- Provide virtual class lectures or discussions
 - Provide a set weekly virtual class that students can attend
 - Students unable to attend can watch recorded session
- Provide recorded sessions for students to watch about concepts that are confusing
- Provide recorded sessions of your face-to-face class for students to view
- Meetings with group on a project
 - Instructor sets up session through last day of term (see slide 2)
 - Students have access at their convenience 24 x 7

- **Virtual Office Hours**

- Meet individually or in small select groups using Breakout Rooms
- Meet with anyone who “pops in” in the main room

Student Perspective

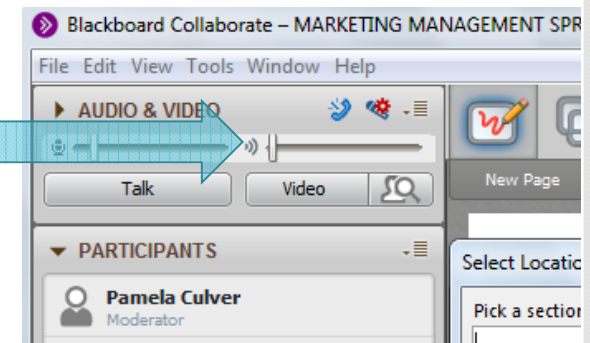
- Three of my students using Collaborate for various reasons
- This is recorded session in Collaborate.

If you are joining us virtually,

- Please click on the following link which will open in a new Collaborate session.

<https://blackboard.westernnc.edu/webapps/bb-collab,atc-BBLEARN/recording/launchGuest?uid=40e5b560-dfae-4e97-8242-146e2a5c86eb>

- You will want to slide the volume control down in this main Collaborate window so you can hear the Student Recorded Session in a new Collaborate window.
- Please return to this main session if you have questions after watching the video



Thank You!

- Thank you for showing interest in and being patient with the challenges and opportunities of Collaborate.
 - One thing I have learned is technology presents some struggles and I always prepare myself for them mentally.
 - My students are often the best resource and love to help. They appreciate that I am willing to take risks to help them. They are then willing to help me in return. Do not try and impress them, show them how to work together.
- If you have questions later, please feel free to contact me
 - Pam Culver, Marketing Instructor
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