How Students Access Wimba Classroom

Wimba Classroom is a synchronous (real-time) online tool that allows students and instructors to gather and interact in a virtual classroom thereby enabling distance learning regardless of the physical location of the participants. Additionally, those experiences may be archived, thereby enabling asynchronous learning as students access the archived Classroom sessions at their convenience. Your instructor will set up a Wimba Classroom in the course within Blackboard, which you can access from that course’s home page. Synchronous sessions will provide interactive abilities while asynchronous sessions will primarily allow you to view and listen to material presented by your instructor.

Before the First Wimba Classroom Session

1. **System Requirements.** Windows 7, Vista, or XP; Mac OSX 10.4+ / 512MB (1 GB or higher recommended) / IE 7.0+, Safari 3.0+, Firefox 3.0+ (Browser must be Java and JavaScript enabled) / Internet access at 56k or above (broadband recommended)

2. **Required Hardware.**
   - **Minimum for Asynchronous:** Speakers (enables you to listen)
   - **Minimum for Synchronous:** Speakers and microphone (enables you to listen and speak)
     Note: Using this configuration you must turn off (or mute) your speakers before speaking into your microphone to prevent feedback
   - **Recommended for Synchronous:** USB headset featuring integrated headphones and microphone (enables you to listen and speak with better clarity and without turning off your sound)

3. **Complete the Wizard.** At least 48 hours before your first session, run the Wimba Classroom Setup Wizard (image at lower left), which is available from your Wimba Classroom link or [http://67.202.211.230/wizard/wizard.html.pl?wizardconf=wizard.conf](http://67.202.211.230/wizard/wizard.html.pl?wizardconf=wizard.conf)

   You may be asked to click next as it checks each area. When complete, you should see a check mark in each box and a congratulatory message (image at lower right). If the Wizard detects a problem with your setup you will be instructed how to remedy the issue.
The Day of the Wimba Classroom Session

1. Log into Blackboard, navigate to the home page for the appropriate course, and then into the Wimba Classroom. To enter Wimba Classroom either follow the directions given by your instructor or navigate there by clicking Communication (located under the Tools heading) and Wimba Classroom. Once in Wimba Classroom select the appropriate session and click the blue arrow beside to enter the Classroom (if your instructor has archived previous sessions they will appear in this listing along with your desired real-time or archived Classroom).

2. You may be asked to authorize WimbaMedia. If so, check the box beside “Always trust content from this publisher” and then click Run.

3. You are now logged into Wimba Classroom. Your instructor will likely begin the session with a sound check to ensure all participants are able to hear what is being said in the room. Your name will appear in the Participant Area (see the oval in the image below) and you will be able to view any content your instructor wants you to see in the Content Frame. Please see the “How Students Navigate Wimba Classroom” guide for information about the options accessible to you in this environment.

Note: If you know you will be unable to access Wimba Classroom during a synchronous session, you may choose to participate telephonically. If you need to participate in this manner, you are expected to make arrangements with your instructor well in advance of the scheduled session. Your instructor will provide you with a phone number and PIN.