How Students Navigate 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.

If this is your first time to enter a Wimba Classroom:

**Synchronous (real-time).** If you will be participating in a synchronous (real-time) experience, you should read “How Students Participate in a Synchronous (Real-Time) Wimba Classroom Session,” which will provide you all the information needed to enter the Classroom.

**Asynchronous (archived).** If you will be participating in an asynchronous (archived) experience then you must 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 the Wimba Classroom directory, click the blue arrow beside the desired session to enter. The first time you open a Classroom, Wimba will run the Wimba Classroom Setup Wizard to ensure your machine is able to fully participate. If the Wizard detects a problem with your setup you will be instructed how to remedy the issue.

Wimba Classroom offers students functionality primarily through the **Content Frame**, **Media Bar**, **Text Chat Area** and **Participant Area**.
Content Frame. The **Content Frame** is the main focus in the Classroom. Almost all content, such as images, charts, and text will appear in the **Content Frame**. During the Classroom session, the displayed content will be controlled by the instructor.

Media Bar. The **Media Bar** appears above the **Text Chat Area**. In a synchronous (real-time) Classroom it contains the following items (in an asynchronous or archived Classroom you have fewer options since you are viewing material rather than interacting with your instructor and the other students):

- **NetStats**: network statistics about your Internet connection
- **Talk button**: initiates your microphone and video broadcast (if the **Video Window** is raised and you have opted to transmit video)
- **Volume meters**: colored bars indicating you are sending/receiving audio
- **Camera button**: raises/lowers the **Video Window**
- **Telephone Simulcast**: backup option if you do not have a headset or microphone
- **Options Menu**: advanced audio/video settings

Text Chat. The **Text Chat Area** is where you can communicate via text chat with instructors and fellow students.

**Public Messages.** To send a **Public Message**, which can be viewed by everyone in the Classroom, type your message and press the **Enter** key on your keyboard. Your message will appear in the **Text Chat Area**. You will see the words, "You say" preceding messages that you send. Messages sent by other participants are preceded by their name.

**Private Messages.** To send a Private Message, which will only be seen by you and the recipient, change the **To** pull-down menu to the desired student’s name, then type your message and pressing the **Enter** key on your keyboard. You will see the words, "You tell" preceding the designated person’s name, followed by your message, surrounded by a gray background. (If you send a **Private Message** remember to change the **To** pull-down menu back to the “Main Room” option if you want to send **Public Messages**.)
Participant Area. The Participant Area lists all the instructors and students currently in a Classroom and provides you with additional tools.

Yes/No Indicator: A green check mark (for Yes) or red X (for No) appears next to your name when you click the Yes (check mark) or No (X) button below the participant list. When the instructor poses a question, and requests that you answer Yes or No, click the appropriate button (check mark for Yes, X for No). Clicking the mark a second time will remove it.

Hand Raising: When you want to ask a question, you should click the Hand Raise button. A number will appear next to your name when you click the Hand Raise button below the participant list. This number indicates in which order participants raised their hands.

Status Indicator: An emoticon appears next to your name when you select an item from the Set Status selection box (if enabled). Status Indicators include: Away, Approve, Disapprove, Surprise, Confused, Clap, Laugh, Faster, and Slower.

The Room Pulse provides current room data including: the total number of people logged in (both students and instructors), the tally of Yes/No responses and Hand Raises, and a summary of each Status Indicator.

Additional Options in an Asynchronous (Archived) Classroom

If desired, you can use the Archive Navigation to jump to specific transition points within the archive, which allows you begin viewing at multiple intervals within the Classroom session.

Additionally, you have the ability to download the Classroom session as either a .mp3 (audio) or .mp4 (video) file.