

# Wimba Classroom

## Student Quick-Start Guide

*Review this page prior to first live scheduled meeting*

### Synchronous Meetings

Wimba Classroom is synchronous online tool available within BLS/WebCT Vista. Wimba allows the instructor and students to meet in a virtual classroom where you can share applications and talk to each other in real time. A Wimba Session can be accessed from the home page for online class sessions and small group meetings.

We will be meeting synchronously periodically throughout the semester. Please try to arrange your schedule so you can participate in these meetings. If you are unable to participate you may be able to access an archived recording of the session.

### Hardware Requirements

The only additional hardware necessary for participation in the Wimba Classroom sessions is a computer headset, a combination of headphones and a microphone. These are readily available at stores such as Best Buy, Target, Walmart, and all electronics and computer stores. Prices range from \$10 to \$20 for low-cost models. Many college bookstores also sell them. Although UMass Boston does not endorse or recommend any specific product vendors, we note that, as of August 10, 2009, one model of headset we've found successful is available for online ordering from Technology Galaxy via Amazon.Com following URL:

[http://www.amazon.com/Labtec-Stereo-342-Headset/dp/B000YTTM8S/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1249922564&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Labtec-Stereo-342-Headset/dp/B000YTTM8S/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=electronics&qid=1249922564&sr=8-1)

Alan Girelli

Logitech Labtec Stereo 342 Headset with Microphone

Clear, stereo sound and a value price make the entry-level Stereo 342 Headset a great choice for voice-over-IP and other voice applications.

\$10.84 (In Stock) as of August 10, 2009.

*Importantly, some models of Apple Macintosh computer, including the MacG4 desktop and MacG4 laptop series **cannot** use standard computer headsets with microphones. For these models of Mac, students should obtain USB headsets, which, unfortunately, tend to sell at higher costs than those using the mini-stereo (1/8th inch) jacks of more common computer headsets. Although UMass Boston does not endorse or recommend any specific product vendors, we note that, as of August 10, 2009, one model of headset we've found successful is available for online ordering through Tiger.Com at the following URL:*

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=3849179&CatId=390>

Item Number P529-1266

Model 76808-01

**Plantronics .Audio 645 USB Stereo Headset**

\$22.99 (In Stock)

NOTE: You should not use computer speakers during a Wimba session since this will cause feedback and echoing for others in the synchronous conferencing session when you yourself are speaking or your mic is otherwise activated.

### **Computer Configuration for Wimba Classroom**

Prior to participation in your first Wimba Session be sure to run the Setup Wizard. Do not wait until the session itself to run this. The Setup Wizard performs a series of tests to determine if your computer is properly configured for use with Wimba. If the tests indicate a problem with your configuration, you will be instructed how to remedy this situation.

### **Technical Support**

Help for BLS/WebCT Vista and Horizon Wimba is available 24/7 via e-mail or phone.

Send e-mail to: [bostonsupport@umassonline.net](mailto:bostonsupport@umassonline.net) or call 1-888 300-6920. or use [live text chat](#) (link on the UMass Online Login page).

Please understand that it is **your** responsibility to resolve any technical issues prior to our first meeting.