**What is Collaborate?**

Blackboard Collaborate is a “webinar”-type tool primarily designed for synchronous interaction with students via voice, chat, video, whiteboard, desktop sharing, and group web tours. You can create breakout rooms for groups during a session, conduct quizzes and polls, and record sessions for students to review on their own time. It’s a powerful and contemporary alternative to Blackboard’s old “virtual classroom” tools.

**Why use it?**

- **Take virtual field trips with students:** Bring in guest speakers or tour remote locations that may be hard for students to visit in person.
- **Hold breakout sessions** for group collaboration outside the classroom.
- **Conduct live virtual office hours** to coach or tutor students in the use of online resources like databases and computer applications.
- **Archive information sessions** so that students can access them as often as they want.

**Keep in mind:**

- At this time, Collaborate is available only for fully online courses at FSU.
- Prepare slides and other canned materials well in advance.
- Consider having someone help moderate the session and field questions, especially with large groups.
- Hold practice sessions to make sure you and your students are comfortable with the system setup and the range of tools available in Collaborate.