TOWSON UNIVERSITY

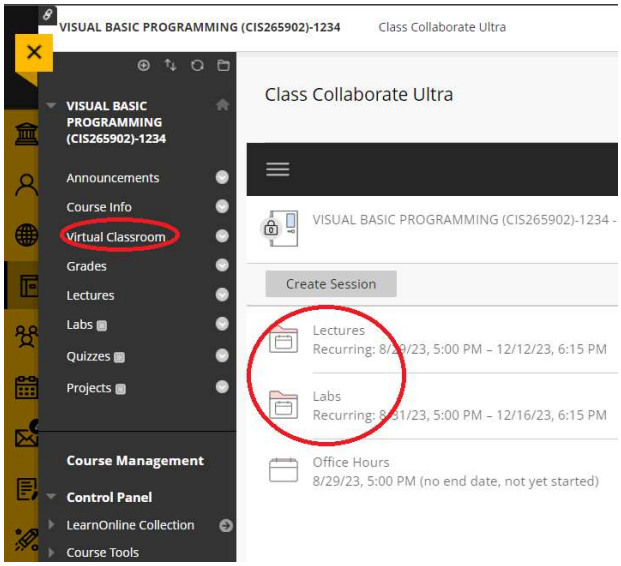
Meeting Times:	Lectures: Tuesday 5:00pm – 6:15pm Labs: Thursday 5:00pm – 6:15pm
Instructor:	Kevin Hall, khall@towson.edu
Virtual Office Hours:	Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (email to schedule)
Optional **Textbook:**	*Programming with Microsoft Visual Basic 2015*, 7th Edition ISBN-13: 978-1-285-86026-8 | ISBN-10: 1-285-86026-8

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts, tools and techniques of software development using an event-driven language that supports a graphical user interface and an object-oriented environment.

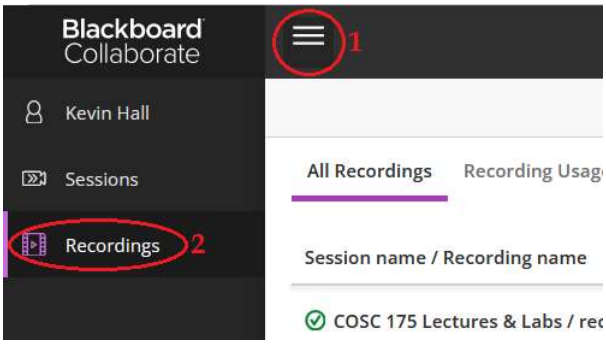
Course Objectives:

- Introduce students to object-oriented programming principles.
- Learn and apply the fundamentals of event driven programming in a graphical environment like Windows.
- Design, code, and test Visual Basic programs

Virtual Lectures and Labs. Lectures are recorded and accessible on Blackboard. We will meet on Blackboard's Collaborate Ultimate tool that is accessible from the class menu on Blackboard. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to watch the lecture slides. Below are screenshots to help you navigate to the appropriate areas in Blackboard.



Click Virtual Classroom on the left-hand size menu.



1. Click the menu bar button
2. Click Recordings

Prerequisite

The prerequisite for this class requires students to have programming experience. While no specific class is listed as a prerequisite, it is expected that students understand the basics of programming: data types, logic and selections (if/else), loops, functions and arrays. If you are not familiar with these concepts, please consider registering for COSC 175 General Computer Science first. A very limited time will be spent on these fundamental topics, as this course will utilize said concepts to explore the intricacies of programming in VB.NET. The class schedule and pace will not be delayed, nor will grading be more lenient for those without the proper programming experience.

Required Software

You are required to have access to the Microsoft Windows operating system and Visual Studio. These software packages are provided to you by Towson University. You can either perform your assignments in-person on a TU lab computer or virtually access a lab computer using the Virtual Workspace. Refer to the link "**Virtual Workspace - how to access CIS Lab Computers from Home**" under Course Info on blackboard.

If you own a computer already running Windows, you may choose to download and install Visual Studio on your personal computer. However, the proper setup, configuration, and any subsequent troubleshooting will be up to you to resolve. You may contact TU's Tech Hub for additional assistance. This can be accessed using the link **"Towson Tech Hub (IT Help)"** under Course Info on blackboard.

General Policies

- **Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating in any form is not tolerated at Towson University. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a penalty from 0 points in the assignment to an 'F' grade in the course along with other administrative penalties. You will be penalized if you copy, or you let your work be copied.
  - The use of outside classroom resources (i.e., forums, Discord, Stack Overflow, Chegg, Course Hero, Cliff Notes, etc.) and AI tools is strictly prohibited.
  - All work must be your own. If you derive solutions using Microsoft's official documentation (MSDN) or from the optional textbook, they must be cited within your source code using comments that note the page number(s) and/or URL at the appropriate line(s) of code.
- **Attendance:** Student attendance will be taken each day. Although this is an online course, you are expected to attend lecture and lab sessions. Showing up for a few minutes and leaving, or arriving considerably late to class will not count towards attendance. The equivalent of three weeks' worth of unexcused absences (six class sessions) will result in an automatic F. No exceptions.
  - If a student is confident in their ability to finish labs without assistance from the professor, a student may leave lab sessions early without negatively affecting their grade. This may occur only during the independent coding portion of labs, as some lab session include a small lecture during the beginning of class.

- It is policy of the university to excuse the absences of students for the following reasons:
  1. Illness or injury when the student is unable to attend class (doctor's note required with official letterhead).
  2. Religious observance where the nature of the observance prevents the student from attending class.
  3. Participation in university activities at the request of university authorities.
  4. Compelling verifiable circumstances beyond the control of the student.

- **Repeating:** University policy states that students may not repeat a course more than once without prior permission of the Academic Standards Committee. The department of CIS does not allow a third attempt on a course unless there are documented extenuating circumstances that prevented the student from passing.
- **Disability:** If you may need accommodations due to a disability, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. A memo from Disability Support Services (DSS) authorizing your accommodation will be needed.
- **Inclement weather:** If the university is closed, class is canceled.
- The instructor reserves the right to modify the course structure and policies according to course needs.

Evaluation & Grading

- The textbook is optional because I choose not to assign specific readings or homework from it to help lighten the financial burden on students. However, if you are struggling in a class, and office hours or Towson tutoring does not suffice, then it is a good indication that further reading may be required from the textbook to enhance your learning experience.
  - It is worth noting, however, that there are times when students must come up with solutions that aren't covered verbatim by the professor's lecture slides and/or live demonstrations. This is called problem solving and independent learning.
- **Submission:** All coding assignments must be valid Visual Basic files and are to be submitted via Blackboard. You are expected to know how to use a computer and properly compress your project directories in a ZIP file. A live demonstration will be performed during lecture and screenshots in lecture slides will also be included. Failure to properly submit programs will result in a 0.
  - Programs that do not compile and run with lose 30% of their grade.
  - Code must include a header comment (consisting of your name and assignment) and additional comments that explain your thinking/approach to solving the problems. This will help YOU in two ways:
    1. Earning partial credit when your code is wrong, but your approach had the right idea.
    2. It makes reading your code easier if you forget what you were trying to do. Points will be deducted for a lack of, insufficient, and/or incorrect comments.
- **Labs:** These assignments provide hands-on practice with the concepts covered during lecture. The expectation is that students have familiarized themselves with concepts covered in lecture and are prepared to implement them. Labs are released on Thursdays during lab sessions. They are always due the following day (Friday) before midnight.

- **Late Submissions:** Unless under extenuating circumstances and only with prior notification and documentation (funeral notice, doctor note, etc.) No late work (of any kind) will be accepted.
- **Projects:** There are no exams; instead, there is a midterm and final project. Like with all assignments, these are individual assignments. Revisit the Academic Dishonesty for details. Projects are to be completed during class time. The midterm and final will be released at 5PM and are due 7:10PM on the days identified in the schedule.
- **Pop Quizzes:** Randomly throughout the semester there will be pop quizzes. Make sure you are reviewing code solutions, studying, and practicing concepts **beyond** just listening to lectures and doing labs.
- **Make-up Policy:** Make-up work will be permitted only under extenuating circumstances and only with prior notification and documentation (funeral notice, doctor note, etc.). The instructor reserves the right to create alternate make-up assessments for students who are not able to take the original scheduled assessment.
- **Grading:** All grades will be available in Blackboard. View "My Grades" from the course homepage. You are responsible for checking your grades! Any corrections must be reported and resolved prior to the last day of classes. Grades are weighted accordingly:

Attendance	10%
Pop Quizzes	15%
Labs	15%
Midterm Project	25%
Final Project	35%

- Grades are assigned to the following percentage values. I **do not** round grades. Do not email me at the end of the semester begging for extra credit assignments, to turn in late assignments, or for a free handout to make you pass. What you get I what you earn, so try hard all semester.

A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92.9
B+	87 - 89.9
B	83 - 86.9
B-	80 - 82.9
C+	75 - 79.9
C	70 - 74.9
D+	65 - 69.9
D	60 - 64.9
F	< 60