Open Broadcaster Software Studio (OBS)

IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Chroma Key:** a technique used in video and image editing to remove a specific color from the background of a video or image and replace it with a different image or video. Also referred to as "green screen."
- **Filter:** a type of effect that can be applied to a source to modify or enhance its appearance or behavior.
- **Hotkeys:** Keyboard shortcuts that can be used to quickly perform common tasks in OBS, such as switching between scenes or starting and stopping recordings.
- **Mask:** a tool used to selectively hide or reveal parts of an image or video layer. Masks can be used to isolate specific areas of an image or video layer.
- **Scene:** a collection of sources that are displayed together in a specific arrangement; can be used to easily switch between different setups.
- **Scene Collection:** a group of scenes, usually for the same purpose, ex. "Work" or "Toastmasters." While it is possible to reuse sources within the same Scene Collection, it is not possible to reuse them between two different Scene Collections.
- **Script:** a piece of instructions run by a computer or application.

- **Source:** an individual media element that can be added to a scene; some examples include:
  - Video Capture Device: web camera
  - Image: pictures, including but not limited to JPG, GIF, and PNG
  - Media Source: video, including but not limited to MP4, AVI, MOV, and MKV
  - Display Capture
  - Scene: embed one scene within another scene
  - **ab** Text
  - Audio Input Capture: a microphone, must be included to record audio
- **Stage:** large central area at the top of the OBS interface; this is what will be shown to viewers of your Virtual Camera.
- **(Scene) Transition:** a method of transitioning from one scene to another.
- **Virtual Camera:** software that simulates a physical camera device that can be used in applications that normally require a physical camera (ex. Zoom).

TIPS AND TAKEAWAYS

- Important: For the OBS application to "broadcast," you must first click the **Start Virtual Camera** button. You will know that you need to press this button if your signal looks like a blue screen with the OBS logo.

It is necessary to click **Start Virtual Camera** every time you launch the application for the first time.
- If an application other than OBS is making use of your web cam, your web cam cannot be used in OBS. You must change the video source of the application (such as Zoom) to use **OBS Virtual Camera** instead of your web cam.
- While is possible to emulate the use of a physical green screen through software, chroma keying via a virtual background requires more processing power and is of lower quality than using a physical green screen.
- If you think you might reuse a particular group of sources – your web cam source, for example – create a scene with only the items necessary, and then include that scene within all the sources that need it.
- Due to network limitations, a recording you create of yourself through OBS will be higher quality than the quality of the recording that someone creates of you through Zoom.
- To make a recording that includes audio, you must include an Audio Input Capture source in your scene. Once an Audio Input Capture source is present, use the Audio Mixer panel to mute unwanted sources of sound, such as Desktop Audio.