# UTSA Computer Science Main Lab Discord Tutoring

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1. Introduction
Discord is a very popular online group communication platform, providing channel-based text and voice chat. The UTSA Computer Science Department uses Discord to provide online tutoring. Some instructors also use Discord for their online office hours. Discord maintains a history of text chat so that a student can search through previous communication between a course’s tutors and students for a quick answer to his/her question.

There are 2 steps to access tutoring services on the UTSA CS Discord server:
1. Join the UTSA CS Discord server
2. Validate your Discord account with your UTSA id (either implicitly or explicitly, see below)

2 Join the UTSA Computer Science Discord Server
The UTSA CS Discord server is accessible in a limited capacity to any Discord user. Use this link https://discord.gg/5UmgcwD to join the UTSA CS Main Lab Discord server.

After you join and switch to the UTSA CS Main Lab Discord server, you will see the General, Welcome and Troubleshooting channels. You will NOT see any course-specific channels until you validate your Discord account (see next item).

3 Validating your Discord account with your UTSA id
Course tutoring channels in the UTSA CS Discord server are access-restricted, meaning only authorized Discord users are allowed to see and participate in the channels. In order to access course-specific channels, you MUST validate your Discord user account with your UTSA id (i.e., your UTSA abc123 style id). There are two ways to validate your Discord user account with your UTSA id:
1. Use your UTSA id as your Discord account name (implicit validation)
2. Explicitly tell the UTSA CS Discord server your UTSA id using our validate command

Once your UTSA Id has been validated with your Discord account (as explained below), you will see channels for your courses that have provided course lists for the admins to load into the UTSA CS Discord server.

Please see Section for troubleshooting if you are not seeing a tutoring channel for one or more of the courses in which you have registered.

3.1 Using your UTSA id as your Discord account name
This is the simplest way to validate your Discord account with your UTSA id. When you create your Discord account, use your UTSA id as your Discord “USERNAME”. After joining the UTSA CS Discord server, you will AUTOMATICALLY have access to all course channels in the Discord server for which you have registered and are part of the course list data used by the Discord server.
Note that you can temporarily change your Discord username when joining the UTSA CS Discord server and this will also implicitly validate your Discord account with your UTSA id. Please see Appendix A for a walkthrough.

### 3.2 Explicitly validate your Discord account with your UTSA id

Join the UTSA CS Discord server and switch to the #Troubleshooting channel. Type in the validate command using the following format and press Enter afterwards:

```
validate,{abc123},{FirstName},{LastName}
```

*Note: `{abc123}` is your UTSA id (do not type the braces `{}`)

*{FirstName}* is your first name (do not type the braces `{}`

*{LastName}* is your last name (do not type the braces `{}`)  

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** the entire line that you just typed containing the validate command will be immediately deleted to prevent others from seeing it in the chat history.

If validation is successful, you will receive the following response which will be deleted after 10 seconds:

```
Welcome – {FirstName} {LastName}
```

If validation is unsuccessful, you will receive the following response which will be deleted after 15 seconds:

```
For auto-validation, make sure that the abc123, first name, and last name match exactly with what is present on Blackboard.
If correct, then you were not found in any course list. Please contact the instructor.
```

If the validation is successful and you still do not see your course in the list of channels, your instructor might not have provided a list of students for your course. Please contact your instructor and ask him/her to provide their student list to the UTSA CS Discord server maintainers.

See Appendix A for a detailed walkthrough of Discord account creation, accessing the CS Discord server, and explicitly validation.

### 4. Troubleshooting your connection to the UTSA CS Discord server

If you do not see your course in the list of channels, your instructor might not have provided a list of students for your course. Please contact your instructor and ask him/her to provide their student list to the UTSA CS Discord server maintainers.
If you do not see **CSMainLabBot** at the top of the list of users, then UTSA CS Discord BOT is not active. Please post a message in the Troubleshooting channel.

If you have trouble validating your Discord account with your UTSA id, please post a message in the Troubleshooting channel.
A.1 Creating a Discord account with your UTSA id as your Discord username

This first example illustrates creating a Discord login using your UTSA id as your Discord user account, connecting to the UTSA CS Discord server, and automatic validation.

A.1.1 Open the Discord Application and select Login

Open Discord App and Press Login
Signing up to use Discord is very simple. Go to discordapp.com and click on the Login button in the top right-hand corner. If you have already made your account, you can skip to the Login section.

After pressing Login, the window on the right appears. Click Register at the bottom of the login screen.

If you already have created the login, skip to section 1.3.
A.1.2 Specify Your Email, User Id, and Password

To create an account, you must use a valid email address.

Please use a STRONG password.

Once you have filled out the required fields, press the **Continue** button.

You will then need to **verify your email address** by logging into the email account you used for registering.
A.1.3 Login

You are now ready to log into Discord using your credentials.

Welcome back!
We're so excited to see you again!

EMAIL
abc123@my.utsa.edu

PASSWORD
*******

Forgot your password?

Login

Need an account? Register
A.1.4 What do I do if I already have a USERNAME which is not my abc123 ID?

If your user ID is your abc123 ID, skip to section 2.

| If you already have a login ID which is not your abc123, you need to **temporarily** change it to your abc123 ID. You will then add the CS Server to your login (as shown in section 2). | **Click on the settings** 🛠️ **which is at the bottom left.**

Select the **My Account** tab of the **User Settings** menu. Edit the **USERNAME**.

![MY ACCOUNT](image)

| Change your **USERNAME** to your abc123 ID and then click **SAVE**. | **MY ACCOUNT**

After you complete step 2 below where you add the CS Server to your login, you may change your **USERNAME** back to your original ID.

*Warning: You cannot change your username more than twice within a short period. If you are unable to change it, please wait 2 hours before trying it again.*

![MY ACCOUNT](image)
A.1.5 Adding the UTSA CS Server to your Login

ADDING THE CS SERVER
The column on the left-hand side of your Discord app is your server list. Any time you add a server, you will see it pop up as a small circular icon in this list:

To add a new server to your login, click the "+" icon at the very bottom of the server list.
After clicking the "+" icon, a window will pop asking if you want to create or join a server.

Click the **Join a server** button.

After clicking Join a server, it will ask you to enter an instant invite.

Copy and paste **https://discord.gg/5UmgcwD** into the text field and hit the **Join** button.
You are now in the CS Discord server! Anytime you login to Discord, you will be able to view and chat on the CS tutoring server. If you have any trouble while on the server, please post a message in the **troubleshooting** chat channel.
APPENDIX B

B.1 Important Concepts

Following are some common and important terms when discussing Discord’s technology:

**Server**
A server is used to group together a collection of text and voice channels that have something in common. UTSA CS has one Discord Server for all its course tutoring. We will show how you can add this server to your login below.

**Channel**
A channel is where you do your chatting in Discord either by text or voice. UTSA CS has a text channel for each course requiring tutors. Once you are on the UTSA CS server, you will see the channels that were added for you by your instructors.

B.2 Channel Usage

UTSA CS has already created many of its CS courses as Discord channels. You should be able to select your specific course channel and start chatting.

Note that TAs and Tutors can delete their own messages. Students cannot.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENT DISCORD USERS:

Please do NOT include detailed code in your chat message; instead, either use a private message with the tutor or send your tutor/TA/instructor a small portion of your code.

We must emphasize that our tutors and TAs are not allowed to write your code!