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# GETTING STARTED WITH LabVIEW

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*Please note:* None of the University computers have the actual hardware required for data acquisition and output. The University computers do have full software and will allow users to learn LabVIEW programming and create Virtual Instruments that can be used with other machines that do have data acquisition hardware.

LabVIEW also offers an online tutorial that is a great way to get acquainted with programming. Here are a few easy steps to get started with the LabVIEW tutorial.

1. Launch LabVIEW : **Start** → **All Apps** → **N→NI LabVIEW 2015 SP1 (32-bit)**
2. Go to the link <http://www.ni.com/academic/students/learn-labview>
3. Proceed through the tutorials.

This tutorial will familiarize the user with LabVIEW techniques and terminology such as:

- Virtual Instrument: The actual device that the user has created using LabVIEW. These are known as virtual instruments because they can substitute for actual instrumentation such as an oscilloscope or spectrum analyzer.
- Diagram: LabVIEW uses a graphical programming platform. The diagram is the actual program that the user has written. This graphical language is similar to most common programming languages such as C, Fortran, or Matlab. The same programming principles are used, they are now just in a graphical format.
- Panel: The user interface to the LabVIEW virtual instrument comes through the panel. This is the screen that the user looks at while the program is executing. The panel is user friendly with button, knobs and sliders. This type of interface can easily be used by those who have little computer experience. The panel can be customized to fit the needs of nearly any application.