

University of Louisville

Space Program for Belknap Academic Classroom Building

Louisville, Kentucky



Project Information

Completion Date
December 2015

Services Provided
Instructional Space Utilization
Space Program

Rickes Associates developed the space program for a new classroom building to leverage pedagogical change at the University of Louisville.

A state research institution, the University of Louisville enrolled 22,500 students in Fall 2014 on its 287-acre metropolitan Belknap Campus in Louisville, Kentucky. The Master Plan calls for the existing 2.5 million gross square feet of buildings to grow to 5.5 million gross square feet by 2029.

Rickes Associates (RA) developed the space program for the University's first Master Plan project, the Belknap Academic Classroom Building (BACB). The goal was to set a new academic standard to inspire teaching and learning throughout the campus, and to attract, engage, and retain the students of today and tomorrow. RA articulated the vision for the BACB with the University Executive Committee's insight into the opportunities and challenges of the new BACB. Faculty, staff, and student interviews gave RA the opportunity to understand departmental functions, space needs, and ideal adjacencies in three existing groups - REACH, Career Development Center, and Exploratory Advising -- and the new Academy for Teaching. RA's classroom space utilization assessment and teaching lab needs analysis informed the recommended final mix of instructional space in the BACB.

The 93,000 assignable square feet (150,000 gross square feet) space program specifies in detail the spaces, square footages, and adjacencies in the BACB, and along with room data sheets, forms the basis for the architectural design. Fourteen active learning classrooms offer students the opportunity to learn in spaces designed for emerging pedagogies, and twelve state-of-the-art science labs inspire student interest in science careers. The Student Success Center integrates academic and career planning support for students to increase student retention and persistence. The Academy for Teaching recognizes teaching excellence to inspire the entire faculty. With student gathering spaces, meeting rooms, informal hang-out space, and places for individual and group study, the BACB will be a lively new hub of learning and community for generations to come.