

Fairfield University

Strategic Master Plan: Instructional Space

Fairfield, Connecticut



Project Information

Completion Date
July 2015

Services Provided
Instructional Space Utilization
Master Plan/Optimization

Rickes Associates developed a space program to accommodate anticipated enrollment increases at Fairfield University with an additional focus on the space needs of growth departments.

Founded in 1942 by the Jesuits, Fairfield University occupies 210 park-like acres in Connecticut. Fairfield enrolls approximately 4,900 students in both graduate and undergraduate programs, and commits to educating “the whole person — mind, body, and spirit.” Guided by their strategic plan, Fairfield 2020: The Way Forward, Fairfield began the process of developing a master plan to support anticipated changes and growth.

Fairfield University predicts an increase in undergraduate students to 4,000, with growth occurring in specific programs. Rickes Associates (RA) was engaged to identify space needs for campus-wide instructional space within the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering, College of Nursing, and Continuing Studies to inform the master planning process. The master plan identified additional space needed on campus, along with optimal strategies for addressing those needs.

RA conducted an instructional space utilization analysis and recommended an appropriate mix of classrooms and specialized instructional spaces for the University, as well as scheduling opportunities to intensify use of existing classrooms. Through a series of interviews with key stakeholders, RA collected information about pedagogy, changes in programs impacting space, and current and future space needs.

RA developed a program that identified an additional 20,000 ASF of space requirements for each of the target departments, in addition to identifying needed specialized instructional spaces and general-purpose classrooms. These recommendations informed the team's Master Plan which proposed strategic, cost-effective approaches for addressing overall space needs.