

Wharton County Junior College

Campus Space Master Plan

Wharton, Texas



Project Information

Completion Date
November 2017

Services Provided
Master Plan/Optimization
Instructional Space Utilization Analysis
Strategic Program Alignment

Rickes Associates conducted a Campus Space Master Plan for Wharton County Junior College located in Wharton, Texas, to determine the functional types and amount of space each site needed, aligned with best use by campus location.

Wharton County Junior College consists of four campuses ranging from a drop-in center in Bay City, Texas to a full residential campus in Wharton, Texas. These sites encompassed 400,000 assignable square feet and 5,000 FTE at the time of this project. The overall study identified specific space deficits for each of the campuses and opportunities by which to meet those needs within existing buildings. Along with this, individual space programs were developed to test fit select units into various buildings as part of a migration plan, such as a new One-Stop Academic Success Center, the Technology Center, and Workforce Development.

As part of this study, a broad overview of existing academic programs and labor market alignment was conducted for each of the four sites. Recommendations for potential new programs were provided, such as Technologist for Respiratory Carer, Cardiovascular, and Diagnostic Sonography. At a systemwide level, discussions focused on the possibility of consolidating sites, shifting the main campus to a branch, and examining branding and strategic goals for the College as a whole.

Collectively, these analyses established a quantitative base and provided WCJC with the critical tools to make data-driven decisions. This was accomplished within the context of an overall holistic review of campus space needs as well as within the larger context of declining enrollment and competition for funding.