

California State University Dominguez Hills

Space Optimization and Migration Plan for Displaced User Groups

Carson, California



Project Information

Completion Date
March 2020

Services Provided
Housing/Student Life
Instructional Space Utilization
Master Plan/Optimization
Space Program

California State University Dominguez Hills is in a period of historic growth while simultaneously the campus footprint is temporarily shrinking by five percent to accommodate the construction of two new buildings.

California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) is one of five Cal State institutions within the Los Angeles basin occupying 560,000 assignable square feet (excluding housing) currently supporting 12,000 FTE and expected to grow to 15,000 FTE. The campus, developed in the 1960s, occupies 360 acres. CSUDH graduates more minority students than any other state school in California.

Rickes Associates was engaged as a trusted advisor on a comprehensive study of CSUDH's academic space needs vis-à-vis backfill space resulting from two new buildings coming online: Science and Innovation (for the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences) and Innovation and Instruction (for the College of Business Administration and Public Policy). Throughout a two-year period, detailed analysis included space programs, backfill planning and associated migration scenarios for the College of Natural Science and Mathematics, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the College of Health, Human Services and Nursing, and the College of Arts and Humanities. In addition, RA also executed a detailed migration plan for displaced user groups as a result of impending demolition. An instructional space utilization analysis demonstrated how the campus could function with 18 fewer classrooms in the near-term despite expected enrollment growth.

Campuswide migration recommendations included the development of a Student Success Hub, which collocates previously isolated units of similar student-facing groups in the heart of campus, and strategies to permit academic unit growth and eliminate fragmentation. Whether through right-sizing, re-purposing, or relocation of space, the final migration plan realigns campus space with CSUDH's strategic goal to put students first.