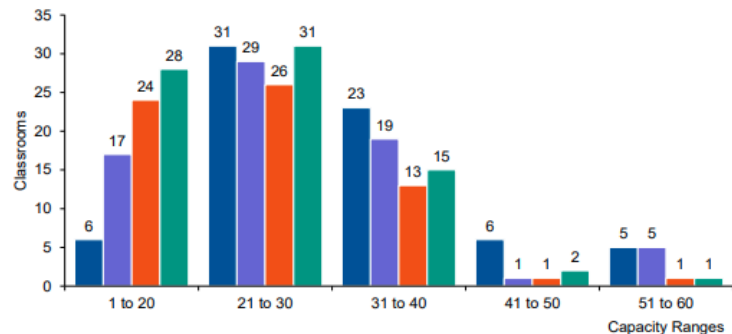


Fairfield University

Strategic Master Planning

Fairfield, Connecticut



Classroom Utilization Findings

Rickes Associates continued its ongoing relationship with Fairfield University, providing critical instructional space utilization analysis and space programming support to reflect the University's planned enrollment growth in their 2030 master plan.

Project Information

Completion Date
December 2020

Services Provided
Instructional Space Utilization Analysis
Space Program

Fairfield University, a Catholic Jesuit university founded in 1942, occupies 210 acres in Fairfield, Connecticut. Offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees, Fairfield anticipates a modest increase in overall enrollment in the next decade, with undergraduate enrollment growing to 5,000 students.

Rickes Associates was engaged to support an update to the Fairfield University 2015 Master Plan, with goals of addressing current and projected classroom space needs, quantifying future office needs as a result of anticipated personnel growth, and targeting the space needs associated with the School of Engineering as well as Communication and Media Studies, a cluster of programs within the College of Arts and Sciences. To initiate this study, interviews were conducted with the Deans of the five schools and colleges, including the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dolan School of Business, the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies, the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, and the School of Engineering. These interviews established the criteria for additional space needs for each school. Additional interviews were held with targeted individuals to refine and confirm final space projections.

In addition, the study included a demand analysis of current and projected instructional space needs, with a focus on over 50,000 ASF of existing classroom space. This analysis suggests re-organization of existing capacities to meet current and future needs, with an additional 2,500 ASF of classroom space needed to supplement current stock by 2030.

The outcome of these tasks produced individual programming suggestions for each school to accommodate projected faculty growth. Combined with associated classroom needs, the result was a total projected increase of over 43,000 ASF across campus.

Also included in this study was the programming for three new facilities, including a new dedicated Engineering School building; an addition to the College of Arts and Sciences to house new classrooms, offices, and an auditorium; and a conceptual program for the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions. These programs are to be used to help inform future developments with respect to fundraising and planning for these facilities.