

An October 2011 response to the question “What will the Campus of the 21st Century look like?” drawn from Two Years to Two Decades focus group feedback and input from the Campus of the 21st Century initiative committee.

The Campus of the 21st Century

...is more integrated and holistic

The buildings and open spaces that make up the physical geography of the UW community are an essential part of our identity and future. Going forward, our idea of *campus* will be more holistic, including a greater emphasis on people and programs, as well as the places and collaborative spaces that make up our academic, social, clinical, and entrepreneurial geographies. Boundaries between inside and outside spaces, on-campus and off-campus, will become more porous as our learning environment increasingly incorporates the *spaces between*—between buildings, between people, between classes, and between campus and the community. Administrative units such as facilities and maintenance will actively serve the educational mission by collaborating with faculty and students to use the campus as a test bed for research and experiential learning.

...is more collaborative

The UW will be more collaborative, emphasizing *the commons over turf*, and driven by principles of making the best use of space through multi-use, and sharing, and neighborhood collaboration. Infrastructure and space-related planning and problem-solving will push beyond traditional boundaries, be they physical or virtual, to collaborate internally and connect to our larger community. Based on shared goals and a common purpose, we will be an active and proactive partner with the city, community, and private sector around construction, public safety, entrepreneurial activity, and urban and environmental planning. We will build on the Northwest and UW spirit of consultation, collaboration, cooperation and love of innovation, discovery, and the outdoors.

...is both physical and virtual

Building, maintaining, and supporting on-site and online environments is essential to a vibrant, collaborative campus life. Students, faculty, and staff will increasingly need and expect campus to provide both *bricks* and *clicks*, the physical campus and virtual spaces that provide fast, ubiquitous, and fully integrated IT access to the devices of their choice in the locations of their choice. Computer labs will grow into learning commons where students access software, content, collaborative tools, and networks to support learning and research in ways that integrate their academic and social landscapes. Physical location and schedules will provide fewer constraints since learning, research, and administrative activities will be carried out remotely at any time and make use of cloud computing, social networking, and emerging technologies.

...is responsive to the needs of a diverse and changing community

While our campus will always serve 18–25 year olds attending classes on campus, we will serve the needs of changing student demographics, such as increases in the numbers of students over 25, distance-learners, international students, retired/lifelong learners, and hybrid online/on-site learners, as well as traditionally underrepresented minorities. Our campus will provide places for all individuals to learn, research, and work that are safe, comfortable, supportive, stimulating, and offer opportunities to interact with other members of our increasingly diverse UW community.

... is sustainable

Sustainability will involve careful attention to the physical fabric and embedded infrastructure (technology, energy, waste, open spaces, transportation, finance, and governance) that support our academic, research, and clinical missions. UW students, faculty, staff, and friends will be innovators and active stewards rather than passive participants in saving energy, promoting sustainable agriculture, conserving water, protecting green space, increasing recycling, and reducing reliance on polluting modes of transportation. At the same time, UW’s increasingly limited capital and operating financial resources call for us to be more efficient and effective and to ensure that infrastructure investments are strategic and sustainable, balancing the needs of users, academic programs, infrastructure, and the environment. Environmental and financial sustainability will converge as we develop user incentives to conserve, aim for net-zero energy use in new and repurposed facilities, and partner with the community to develop methods and technologies for developing/distributing energy in ways that generate revenue. Achieving the right balance between the competing demands of environmental and financial stewardship will require an innovative whole-systems approach—a real and shared *eco-district*, not simply a cluster of green buildings—working in a truly collaborative way to leverage the best of global practices while strengthening local community.