



Higher Education

The Nature of Learning is Changing



Today's learning and teaching environments are undergoing significant changes that are in play simultaneously. These layered factors are causing institutions to rethink the physical environment to ensure they are prepared to appeal to tomorrow's students and faculty. Research suggests that more than half of students selecting an institution view its environment as important to their decision; and faculty are even more

convinced that the environment is one of the most influential factors in education. For every place learning and teaching happens today, and wherever it might happen tomorrow, Allsteel has ideas, layout considerations, and product solutions to help design spaces that support the changes impacting the future of education.

Rethinking Collaboration

Campuses are adopting more flexible group areas that encourage students to move within a space to support the collaboration they need. Spaces with fluid settings offer students choice, while providing a variety of agile collaboration experiences throughout the campus.



35%

35% of the skill sets required to perform a job today will be totally different in the next five years. 1



TREND: MAKERSPACES

A makerspace serves as a gathering point for people to share resources and knowledge, network, and work on projects. These spaces offer a variety of postures, storage, and display options to support ideation and creativity.

Supporting A Variety of Needs

As student and faculty demographics shift, institutions are challenged to provide interactive and engaging environments that are broadly utilized. To make these spaces more inviting and functional, campuses are transforming traditional single-use areas into vibrant common spaces with a variety of postures, technology, and privacy accommodations.



50%

Today, colleges and universities are supporting four generations of learners and teachers: 50% who have grown up with technology and 50% who haven't.²



TREND: THE NEW STUDENT UNION

Colleges and universities are rethinking the use of traditional campus buildings, transforming them into dynamic, multi-use spaces that provide a variety of collaboration areas. Students want options and a sense of control over the type of interactions they have throughout the day. With the increase of multiple collaboration areas, designers are integrating “sticky spaces” in new places to entice student engagement between classes.

Social Learning Destinations

Campus dining areas and libraries are becoming destination spaces that double as all-day meeting and learning environments. Students and faculty are taking advantage of flexible, self-governed, informal areas that promote the social dimensions of learning.



Recent studies reveal the use of library services has a positive predictive association with GPA and retention.³



TREND: FROM LIBRARY TO LEARNING CENTER

Because campuses today have an increased focus on student success, inclusion, and diversity, the role and purpose of the library continues to expand. Academic libraries are being designed not only to stimulate and support “creativity, reflection, exploration, and innovation, but also to impact learning.”

Adapting for Space and Purpose

Research shows classrooms of the future must be more agile to support the new learning environment. These spaces reflect real-world settings and incorporate non-traditional designs with multiple posture and configuration options.



50% 15%

Lecture-based courses have as high as 50% student disengagement rate and contribute to 15% of student course failures.⁴



TREND: TEAL

The TEAL (Technology Enhanced Active Learning) model, developed by MIT, promotes a room that is equipped with round tables, seating three groups of three at each one. There is not a display per group (as in other active learning classrooms); rather, there are several large displays around the room showing a variety of instructor- and student-created content.

Switching From Teaching to Learning

Students need to be prepared for jobs that don't yet exist, to meet the needs we have not identified, using technology that has not yet been invented. To accomplish this, academia must evolve from teaching content to teaching lifelong learning skills, which requires rethinking the physical space of the classroom.



80%

The U.S. Bureau of Statistics predicts in the next 20 years, 80% of all jobs will require technical skills.⁵

TREND: STEAM

An emerging trend in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) learning is the incorporation of a true interdisciplinary curriculum when possible. This shift creates an environment where students are working both individually and in teams with other disciplines and learning about collaboration as they would in the real world. By configuring core functions along the perimeter, the center can be left open to facilitate maximum flexibility of furniture.



Maximizing Space

Older buildings often have large private offices for administrators. However, to accommodate the growing number of part-time faculty on campus and the need to maximize valuable floorspace, these offices are being converted into shared spaces. Team offices, dual-purpose offices, and flexible workstations maximize smaller footprints and support a variety of needs.



75%

Nearly 75% of all professors in the U.S. are contingent faculty.



TREND: OFFICE & DESK HOTELING

The transformation of faculty workflow and needs has required institutions to rethink office space design. One consideration for the growing part-time faculty is to provide space they can “own” for a day or an evening. This concept, referred to as office and desk hoteling, is an alternative to the more traditional method of permanent assigned seating and office allocation. This approach allows faculty to feel connected with the institution while maximizing office and administrative spaces.⁸

Inspiring Engagement

Although offices and workstations continue to get smaller, institutions are exploring new configurations that support a growing contingent faculty. Shared offices and dedicated touchdown spaces encourage institution connectedness, collaboration, and ownership, while meeting the needs of faculty privacy.



19%

Since 1970, part-time faculty has grown 422%, and only 19% of those have access to enclosed office space.⁹

TREND: ADDING HUDDLE SPACES

With administrative office space shrinking, the ability to meet with three to four people in an office is challenging. Institutions are now carving out huddle spaces to accommodate meetings outside of an office or conference room with walls. A variety of purposefully placed settings supports quick, impromptu meetings.



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