

College and Careers Building Vision

*But yield who will to their separation,
My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.*

Robert Frost, "Two Tramps in Mud Time"

The Program: The College and Careers Building (CCB) represents a new concept in university education—a College hall where students learn how their liberal arts education provides the foundation for academic, career, and lifelong success. In this building, students from across the 46 majors of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) will:

- develop fundamental communication and reasoning skills;
- apply the critical reasoning skills at the heart of their liberal arts education to issues in the university, the community, and the world outside the classroom;
- integrate their passions and interests with their academic and career choices; and
- find an academic home in the midst of a large college.

To achieve this, we will assemble people and programs that encourage critical thinking, support publicly engaged studies, and help students explore the multitude of paths that lead from their particular studies.

The building will house personnel in four broad categories:

1. Advisors, who connect students' academic interests with practical experience and career paths through outward-focused or experiential programs;
2. Faculty and Graduate Teaching Fellows, who teach and provide advising for foundational academic programs that develop reasoning and communication skills;
3. Faculty seeking to improve their teaching and scholarship through collaboration and experimentation; and
4. Administrators who oversee the College of Arts and Sciences and Career Center.

In addition, the building will provide a forum for employers, alumni, and community members to work with students, faculty and staff.

Many of the activities outlined above already exist on campus but in separate locations spread across the 53 buildings of CAS. By bringing such activities together in one building, we can help students discover these opportunities earlier in their college careers—and encourage interaction among the faculty, staff, employers, professionals, and alumni who participate in our programs.

A unique element of the building is the integration of the Career Center (CC) with the academic enterprise, thus introducing students at an early stage to skills and connections that few faculty possess. With close collaboration among CAS faculty and CC advisors, the building will unite the intellectual adventure of a liberal education with the exhilaration of doing what matters to each individual. We think Robert Frost would approve.

The Building and its Use: The College and Careers Building will be a roughly 50,000-gsf state-of-the-art, vibrant, diversely populated building where the benefits of collaboration across academic fields are realized, not just in research and teaching but also in administration and service. A math teacher chatting with a student after the class can walk with the student to an academic advisor for questions about the major, to a career advisor to talk about courses and career planning, or to the Community Literacy Initiative office to learn about tutoring in middle schools. Faculty, programs, courses, and services that have a high impact on student learning and success will be neighbors in the CCB, where they can work together to provide foundational skills, foster creativity, facilitate experiential learning, arrange undergraduate research opportunities, and help students connect their college education to their future aspirations. In addition to housing innovative, interdisciplinary programs, the building will provide space for both general university classrooms (scheduled by the Registrar) and shared classrooms, breakout and informal meeting spaces, CAS administration offices, an embedded Career Center, and reception/networking areas. Active learning classrooms, interview rooms that double as tutorial spaces, and a variety of student study and gathering spaces will assure that the building is welcoming, inspiring, and accessible to all. Universal and sustainable design will reflect and promote these core values of the University of Oregon and will be an integral design feature of the building, the art work within it, and the programs that take place there.

The design and layout of the CCB will support integration and fluid interaction among programs through spatial proximity, transparent connections, and strategic placement of shared facilities. Students will experience the building as a journey begun as freshmen and continued to their point of launch as graduates. Academic programs like English Composition and beginning Mathematics will draw many new students to the building. There, they will encounter other students, faculty, and staff working as institutional neighbors in various student-success programs. They will find advisors who can connect their academic interests with practical experience—perhaps in ways they hadn't imagined. They will be welcomed into high-tech, yet personally engaging, spaces that are also used for events and gatherings. Formal and informal learning spaces will be intermingled with CAS and CC reception and networking areas, advising pods, student and faculty project spaces, and CAS and CC administrative offices. Spaces will be as adaptable and scalable as possible—varying in the degree to which they are active or passive, open or protected, in order to accommodate different levels of interaction. Indoor and outdoor spaces will work together and will integrate aesthetically and functionally with the core of campus. The building will invite the flow of pedestrians and take its natural place within the campus environment.

Visions for the CCB from CAS Deans Office and CC staff:

- Imagination building: a thought- and opportunity-provoking place of ideas; intention and exploration; a destination; a magnet; a hub of activity
- Promotes academic and career success
- Fosters and promotes integration of ideas rather than current siloes of programs/ departments
- Instills a sense of affirmation, connectivity, and belonging; sense of community; is comfortable
- Clear building function and use
- Connecting the dots for students; a place where students connect their learning and training to their own life story; student experience
- Home-base for students from landing to launch; an appealing place to visit and feel welcome
- Place to linger and engage, observe and learn; a place students feel at ease and get inspired
- Opportunities to network; explore possibilities with peers, faculty, staff, advisors, alumni, recruiters
- A happening place with engaging lectures and events
- An inclusive, universally and sustainably designed building in keeping with the UO *Campus Plan*

Visions for the CCB from faculty:

- Building should be welcoming, but shouldn't feel like a shopping mall. It should convey a strong sense of place with a cozy feel; a setting for actual "faculty firesides"
- An environment where opportunistic encounters occur; where curiosity flourishes
- Includes lab-like spaces – where students are testing ideas and working on things
- Counteracts the myth that a Liberal Arts degree can't be a viable career path
- The objective of the building could be to educate professors – to turn them into better advisors! Most professors don't have much experience in the private sector, but human interactions fostered by the building could help them communicate how, for example, humanities majors can lead to great career possibilities
- Interdisciplinary, outward-facing programs create an exciting opportunity if done in an academically rigorous way. The right type of spaces will encourage collaboration and attract innovators and early adopters

Proposed Organization Distribution (integrated, not siloed)

1. Non-programmed building spaces
 - Includes building "hearth," help or concierge station(s), reception and networking areas (with facilities for catering), informal student study spaces, niche lounges, access to food, etc.
 - Outdoor gathering places will be important, with some areas that are partially sheltered.

2. Programmed spaces

- **Advising**
 - Includes university-wide, CAS, and CC academic and career advising/counseling
 - CC current space allocation (listed under Administration) includes these spaces. CAS academic advising is scattered throughout departments and units; it is anticipated that approximately 10 academic advisors will be relocated to the CCB
- **Outward-focused and experiential programs**
 - Includes community outreach, experiential programs, internships, *practica*, undergraduate research, scholarship, and networking opportunities
- **Foundational academic programs** that develop reasoning and communication skills
 - Includes English Composition and beginning Mathematics
- **Incubator space** to encourage and support faculty collaboration and experimentation
 - Includes space for faculty to develop new curriculum, courses, and approaches to teaching
- **Registrar-controlled classrooms and associated spaces**
 - Includes programmed and un-programmed spaces
 - Will include minimum of 300-seats in variety of sizes and configurations, which will be shared with CAS and CC during unscheduled hours
- **Shared classrooms/seminar and associated spaces**
 - Shared by CC and CAS, includes programmed and un-programmed spaces
- **Shared meeting, team, interview, and advising spaces**
 - Shared by CC and CAS, includes both scheduled and unscheduled spaces
 - CAS and CC current space allocations (listed under Administration) include some of these spaces, which can be reconfigured to achieve the building vision
- **Administration**
 - CC administrative spaces
 - Total program is currently allocated 4,206-sf in Hendricks Hall
 - Assume an additional 10% required for growth/right-sizing
 - Current staff numbers: 10 OA's, 11 classified, 6 GTF, 13 student workers
 - CAS Deans Office
 - Total program is currently allocated 5,861-sf scattered within several buildings
 - Assume an additional 10% required for growth/right-sizing
 - Current staff numbers: 1 Dean, 5 Associate Deans, 2 Assistant Deans, 20 OA's, 6 classified, 2 temporary employees, 6 student workers