Creating a Campus Community

New tools and pedagogies enable learning to happen anywhere, at any time. For campuses to remain relevant, they need to offer something that cannot be found anywhere else—a sense of belonging to a community and an experience of learning enriched through meaningful connections among students, faculty, and administrators.

At Herman Miller, we’re collaborating with the world’s leading thinkers and designers to better understand how people think, create, and interact. Using these insights, we’re helping institutions and their design partners create learning environments that harness the innate motivations of students and faculty. We believe these types of environments enable purpose and encourage everyone to strive for high levels of achievement.
Purposeful Learning Spaces

For learning spaces to be purposeful and appealing, they should be designed around the things that are fundamental to all humans—our experiences and motivations. In addition, they should consider the unique culture of students and faculty on each campus. Within these spaces, the surroundings, furnishings, and tools should work in concert to provide an optimal experience of learning and teaching, and should fluidly change as the needs of students and faculty evolve.

The following pages offer examples of learning spaces that allow students and faculty the freedom to learn and teach in ways that feel natural and comfortable, ultimately allowing all to do their best. We hope they inspire you to consider how you might make your own campus even more vibrant and appealing, with spaces that students choose over off-campus options.
Formal Learning Spaces

As pedagogies evolve, and teaching and learning styles change, classrooms are becoming more flexible and supportive of collaboration. In these spaces, students and faculty can easily work together in the ways that suit them best—both virtually and in person.
Small Group Studio

Well suited to small groups, this learning studio quickly adapts to a variety of collaborative activities. Mobile work chairs and height-adjustable tables can be wheeled into pods for breakout sessions, support various postures, and enable comfort and focus. Movable digital display and whiteboards make it easy to share information from anywhere in the room, while storage contains personal belongings and shared supplies. Ample circulation space encourages students to engage with all the available tools and one another, and allows instructors to move freely around the room. Benches and small round tables at the room’s periphery support casual side conversations.

Learners 24
Room Size 40' x 25'

Alternative Layouts
Seminar Studio

This learning studio is designed to enhance collaboration in medium-sized groups. It’s furnished with tables and lightweight chairs that can be rearranged according to the needs and requirements of the activity, as well as whiteboards for capturing and sharing information. A credenza stores personal belongings and doubles as a surface for mobile technology or digital displays. Bar-height tables and chairs, as well as a trio of lounge chairs, offer seating variety within the studio.

Learners 31
Room Size 40' x 26'

Alternative Layouts
Lecture Studio

Designed to support the presentation and discussion of content, this learning studio has a clearly defined point of focus. Critical elements are clear lines of sight to the speaker, digital displays, and whiteboards for everyone (including remote participants); good acoustics and lighting; and a way for students to join for part of the class without being obtrusive. Moveable furnishings allow the space to be tailored to the requirements of the class, and to be rearranged as needs change.

Learners 54
Room Size 50’ x 35’

Alternative Layouts
Informal Learning Spaces

Learning can happen anywhere, from the transition spaces in between classrooms to student workshops to outdoor settings. These spaces, outfitted with purposefully arranged furnishings and tools, offer students and faculty the freedom to learn and teach in ways that feel natural and comfortable—allowing everyone to do their best.
Transition Space

Composed of comfortable seating in diverse arrangements that support a range of activities and postures, this transition space takes advantage of its primary purpose as a pathway to connect people, particularly through impromptu encounters. Students and faculty can perch in this space between classes to text, recharge their devices, or socialize, or they can settle into more comfortable seating to study for a few hours. Curved benching adds an element of fun and encourages students to relax. Whiteboards and monitors that display class and campus information round out the functionality of this space.
Informal Learning Spaces

Alternative Layouts
Centrally located on campus and accessible to everyone, a maker space supports students as they tinker, deconstruct, and innovate either individually or with other students and faculty. A purposeful variety of furniture groupings supports different activities and postures. Digital and analog tools (such as 3-D printers, laser cutters, and mobile whiteboards) enable co-creation and display, while ample storage houses personal items and shared tools and supplies. Mobile furnishings allow students to easily adapt the space to their work in the moment, while adequate circulation space encourages movement.
Outdoor Space

This outdoor learning space is designed to support presentation and discussion while taking advantage of the benefits of nature, such as reducing stress and refreshing the mind. Diverse seating options and accompanying tables can be easily moved, allowing students to choose the furnishings that best support their activities and to rearrange them as the class progresses. With clear views to the presenter and to the content being presented, this outdoor space enhances learning in a restorative, energizing outdoor setting.
We're Here to Help

At Herman Miller, we offer institutions solutions designed to enhance the experience of learning and to foster the connections that help students, faculty, and administrators succeed. These solutions include research-based insights about learning-space design and layout, and well-designed, top-quality, customized products. By working with us, you also have the reassurance of worry-free service and installation, and an industry-leading warranty. For further information, please visit hermanmiller.com or contact your local representative.