

UWM is committed to being the best place to work and learn. Efforts to maximize the quality of learning experiences include providing classrooms that are designed to stimulate and sustain active and engaged learning.

Northwest Quadrant Active Learning Classrooms

Five active learning classrooms (ALCs) are planned to open in the Northwest Quadrant (NWQ) of the campus in spring 2015. The design is intended to foster increased engagement, peer relationships, retention, processing of information and student achievement. ALCs are constructed with mobile chairs and tables arranged for learning in small groups of varying sizes. Extensive media infrastructure is built into the rooms in order to increase student engagement through interactive, collaborative learning with peers and intensive use of small group pedagogy. The ALCs are not designed for lecture formats. The NWQ ALCs include projectors, instructor consoles, computer monitors, whiteboards, several laptops per small table, and the ability to display information across individual or multiple monitors and screens. Additional information, photos, and floor plans of the space are available at the CETL website: <https://www4.uwm.edu/cipd/Partners/active-learning-classrooms.cfm>

Support

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the University Information Technology Services (UITS) team are providing several professional development workshop modules <http://www4.uwm.edu/technology/services/instruction/classrooms/index.cfm> specifically for instructors of the NWQ ALCs on course design, technology integration, and console/podium navigation. More information on workshop offerings can be found on the above CETL website. Register at: <http://lwcworkshops.org/>

Requesting and Scheduling an ALC

Spring 2015

The year 2015 is considered the pilot year for this initiative and will involve instructors in ongoing discussion and assessment of all aspects of the classroom experience. Therefore, the initial planning and design group (2012-2014) with representatives from Academic Affairs, classroom scheduling, the CETL, and campus space planning were encouraged to invite instructors from their departments to request an ALC for spring 2015. These applications were due in fall 2014. Nearly all time periods available were filled. Several time slots were set aside for ongoing training in technology and pedagogy and remaining available slots were populated by the UWM Registrar's Office.

Fall 2015

The planning team for the NWQ ALCs has been working in close collaboration with the campus scheduling services to devise the process for requesting a NWQ ALC. The January 16, 2015 deadline for fall 2015 NWQ ALCs has been distributed via email and the UWM and Provost's announcements. Instructors must complete the standard room request process through their department schedulers.

Instructors who have completed CETL Active Learning and Small Group Learning workshops and technology orientations will be given preference in order to maximize the use of the space design and technology available. In continuation of the pilot initiative, spring 2015 instructors will be given priority in scheduling ALCs for fall 2015.

2016

Information regarding the application process for the 2016 year will be available on the CETL website in summer of 2015. Applications for spring 2016 use of the NWQ ALCs will be due in summer of 2015 in keeping with the general classroom scheduling process.