HEALTH SCIENCES RENOVATION

Northwest Quad

PROJECT NEED

Inadequate building capacity:
Health Sciences continues to respond to program demand, but spatial constraints prohibit further expansion. Students work elbow-to-elbow in biomedical labs, and physical/occupational therapy equipment is squeezed into rooms, limiting the number of students who can be taught.

Enrollment demand:
Approximately 2,000 students are enrolled annually. In 2021, freshman enrollment increased by 28.9% – with a similar increase in class diversity – and transfers increased by 34.4%.

Department co-location:
Proposed renovations will co-locate departments, currently dispersed across five buildings, to enhance student experience and maximize synergies that come with adjacency.

Relieve plateaued enrollment capacity:
Enrollment has grown more than 120% since 2000, plateauing due to facility restrictions. The project will help more students enroll and graduate to meet Wisconsin’s health care needs.

PROJECT IMPACTS

Adequate health care education for Wisconsin:
Students need modern facilities to meet state health care needs, now in greater demand. New labs will increase capacity by 10-15%.

High-demand careers:
Health Sciences graduates have a job placement rate of over 98% within one year of graduation, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates job growth will increase up to 25% over the next decade. These jobs directly help grow Wisconsin’s economy.

Largest number of degrees:
Health Sciences offers the most health care degrees in Wisconsin, and has partnerships with more than 600 local businesses to offer clinical opportunities and develop groundbreaking health research.

Interprofessional education facilities:
Joint teaching and collaborative experiences will offer a faster path to graduation through flexible scheduling of co-located teaching and lab spaces. A new multidisciplinary simulation center will give students a head start in their careers.

2023-25 CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITY: HEALTH SCIENCES

Purchased by UWM in 2010, NWQ is a former hospital complex that has given UWM the rare opportunity to expand its landlocked footprint. To date, $96.4 million has been invested in phased improvements for the College of Health Sciences, School of Information Studies, Student Health Services and the Children’s Learning Center. As the UWM campus’ top priority in the 2023-25 biennium, the NWQ Health Sciences Renovation includes improvements to Buildings B and D. The completion of this project will address the backlog of students looking to enter UWM’s Health Sciences programs while providing optimal, relevant learning environments.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

98% job placement rate for Health Sciences graduates
2023-25 CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITY: ENGINEERING & NEUROSCIENCE PROJECT

PROJECT NEED
Outdated facilities:
As a result of getting by for years in nonfunctional spaces, Engineering and Neuroscience/Psychology both struggle with recruitment and retention in their current facilities (EMS and Garland/Pearse, respectively). Ultimately, this impacts the availability of STEM talent critical to the state and the broader economy.

Enrollment demand:
CEAS enrolls 2,100 students annually. Graduates have a greater than 90% job placement rate with a $65,000 average starting salary.

Neuroscience/Psychology enrolls 1,270 psychology-specific students while instructing more than 7,000 students campus-wide. Their research funding has increased steadily from ~$2.5 million in 2012 to more than $3.5 million in 2020, ranking second at UWM.

Relieve plateaued enrollment capacity:
Wisconsin and the nation need more engineering and neuroscience graduates. The project will help more students enroll and graduate to meet the state’s needs.

PROJECT IMPACTS
Updated STEM learning and research:
This project is essential to the long-term success of UWM, the continuation of its R1 status and its national positioning among competing STEM institutions.

Increased recruitment and retention:
Competitive, modern experiential learning and research opportunities will support the recruitment and retention of students and faculty, increasing enrollment and graduates to grow Wisconsin’s economy.

Expanded STEM synergies:
This project will mirror real-world STEM trends and support collaboration between the departments of engineering, psychology/neuroscience, biology, physics, chemistry, architecture and beyond.

Here to stay:
New STEM learning environments will increase interdisciplinary activities and access to real-world experiences, resulting in job opportunities that ultimately keep students in Wisconsin.

Project Background
This project addresses the top campus facility needs of both EMS (CEAS) and Garland/Pearse (Psychology/Neuroscience) and includes three primary components:

1. Precursor projects, including the relocation of the planetarium to Engelmann Hall; the relocation of the CEAS and L&S machine shops in EMS; the relocation of five Physics labs to unfinished shell space in KIRC; the building system renovations in EMS; and the demolition of the Physics Building. This scope is a priority within UWM’s 2023-25 Capital Budget Request.

2. The construction of a new, interdisciplinary Engineering & Neuroscience Building on the site of the old Physics Building. The facility will provide Psychology/Neuroscience with a new home, expand engineering space and replace general assignment (GA) classrooms.

3. The strategic renovation of EMS, including a revitalized main entry and physical connections to the Engineering wing of the new building.

Interdisciplinary neuroscience degree:
Psychology and Biological Sciences co-direct this new BS program, which requires coursework in neuroscience, biological sciences, psychology, chemistry and physics. This is the only neuroscience major in the UW System east of Madison.

90% job placement rate for CEAS graduates