

# Library Instruction Room A (W194) Active Learning Classroom Proposal

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Desired Completion Date: Summer 2019

## Concept & Rationale

The UWM Libraries is in need of an immersive learning environment for information and problem based learning. A flexible learning space would enable students to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for engaging in peer to peer learning supported by librarians who mentor, teach, and evaluate their experience. Our teaching librarians have demonstrated commitment to educating students in the growing number of blended courses on our campus through our development of open educational resources and a blended pedagogy in the discipline of information literacy. We lack a key element of an active learning ecosystem: a creative space that inspires critical engagement and higher order learning. We desire a space that would enable student-centered and student-led teaching. This space would eliminate barriers between teacher and student, shifting student perception of the teacher into the role of active facilitator. Our desire is to mentor students within their own information ecosystem building upon their knowledge and skills in order to help them connect prior knowledge with new information literacy concepts.

As a result of student-centered teaching in the Active Learning Classroom, we expect to observe students taking ownership over their own learning. Instead of sitting passively, absorbing new content and clicking through a computer demonstration, which is a common behavior in traditional library instruction, we expect students to engage in self-directed learning, applying prior knowledge to new learning experiences. Our pedagogy of student-centeredness and high expectations moves the teacher from the place of authority in the classroom to the place of mentor and facilitator. Students are led to ask questions uninhibited by a computer terminal sitting in their thinking space. Evidence of self-directed learning includes students teaching and coaching each other within a group, students referencing information literacy knowledge gained outside of class, and students incorporating new skills into their information seeking behavior.

The shift from passive to active learning will be further evidenced by students' ability to communicate their learning with peers and instructors. Traditional teacher-centered classrooms support a transmission model in which students wait for information. A flexible space equipped with active learning amenities invites interactivity that is both social and inquisitive, leading students to create their own questions around their use of sources and the relative value of information in their research projects. In the Active Learning Classroom we will engage students with the use of whiteboards, personal WiFi enabled devices, and group presentation technology to make thinking visible. Students working with one or more of these technologies will be able to visually unpack their thinking, revealing to themselves, their peers, and instructors their prior knowledge and assumptions in order to incorporate new ways of thinking and conceptual ideas.

## Infrastructure & Design Needs

Redesign will result in a more robust use of the space by maximizing the footprint closest to the windowed wall. We will retain: two round tables near the projection screen, each equipped with 4 computer work stations; all chairs on coasters; data ports; and wall mounted whiteboards.

Phase 1 improvements to digital infrastructure will enable content click-sharing between devices and presentation screens; digital connectivity to projector and podia technology; and smaller podia. Completed January 2019.

Phase 2 will install furniture and technology hardware to further support active group learning.

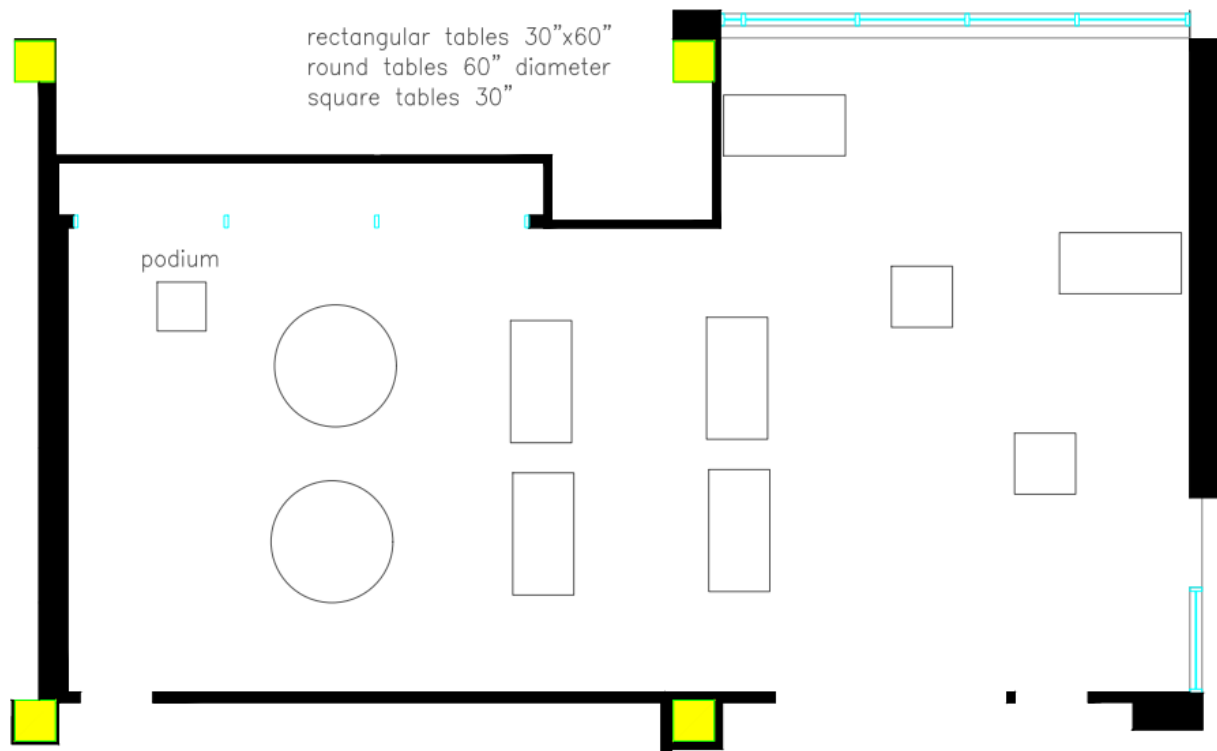
**\$6,906.32** Furniture/Whiteboards (\$4,394.32 for 8 tables; \$2,512 for personal whiteboards and cart)

**\$7,203.14** Hardware

- Dell Ultrasharp 32" 4K USB-C Monitor 6 x \$835.99 = \$5,015.94
- HDMI 4 port splitter 6 x \$44.99 = \$269.94
- HDMI Cable 6 x \$8.22 = \$49.32
- Barco ClickShare Wireless Buttons 6 x \$227.99 = \$1,367.94
- Logitech ConferenceCam Connect \$500

**\$14,109.46 TOTAL**

### Space Mock-up



### Project Plan