

2023-2025 Capital Budget Priorities

The highest priority in CWU's 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request is \$103.7 million to complete the North Academic Complex, which supports students and the environment.

The North Academic Complex, also known as the Humanities and Social Science Complex, will replace two failing buildings and serve students of practically every major CWU offers. The departments currently housed in the Language & Literature (L&L) Building and Farrell Hall are ones that are part of the general education requirements such as English, History, Foreign Languages, and Philosophy. Lower division courses in these disciplines are taken by all non-transfer students as part of the general bachelor's degree requirements.

The L&L Building and Farrell Hall were built in the 1970s, during an era when no regard was given to energy efficiency in building designs. Furthermore, the buildings are not ADA-compliant and were constructed using brick and concrete interior walls which cannot be reconfigured. Demolishing these buildings will reduce energy consumption by over 30% and save the university an estimated \$80 million in necessary improvements to continue using the buildings. Furthermore, these buildings are not compliant with the Clean Buildings Act and Climate Commitment Act and so it will soon be legally mandated that CWU do something to either fix or demolish them.



The North Academic Complex will provide modern classroom and office space for the high traffic departments that will move in from L&L and Farrell Hall. The new building will improve morale of the faculty affected and improve the classroom experience, particularly for first-year and sophomore students working on their general education requirements. It is crucial for students in these early years of higher education to have a positive experience and good learning environment for their persistence through degree completion.

The North Academic Complex will be the first building on-campus to be heated using renewable geothermal energy. The Ellensburg Aquifer, which is directly below CWU, presents a unique and special opportunity for CWU to de-carbonize by relying on heat that is being naturally emitted by the earth. The well that will be excavated for the North Academic Complex will be able to supply enough heat to also connect to the next two future major projects, which are planned to be in the same area of campus. This project will be the first of hopefully many that will lessen CWU's reliance on fossil fuels and shift the campus over to renewable energy.

Behavioral and Mental Health Building (\$8.2 million) — CWU's #2 Priority.

CWU has completed the predesign for this project and now seeks design funding for the next phase in the state's capital budget process. The project will replace the existing Psychology Building with one modern facility that will serve the academic department. The new building will also provide space for CWU Counseling Services, which has run out of space due to the increased demand and the increased number of counselors over the past 10 years. By placing the academics and practitioners together, both will benefit from collaborations that will become more available in the new building. The existing Psychology Building was built in 1975 and is very energy inefficient. The building also has a wing that is unusable due to contamination from when the chimpanzees lived there. The Student Medical and Counseling Center is extremely undersized, which has forced many of the services associated with counseling to spread out to random locations around campus.

Multicultural Center (\$6.0 million) — CWU's #3 Priority.

CWU is one of the most diverse public baccalaureate institutions in the state where approximately 42% of CWU students are people of color. Yet CWU is the only public baccalaureate in the state without a facility dedicated to supporting the academic success of students of color and promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. CWU students have voted to pay a fee that supports bonds for \$16.8 million to pay for the construction of the Multicultural Center. CWU requests state support of \$6 million to supplement the bond revenue to ensure that new facility is high quality and will serve many future generations of CWU students and the greater Ellensburg community.

Arts Education Complex (\$300,000) — CWU's #4 Priority.

When completed, the Arts Education Complex will replace two failing and energy inefficient academic buildings with one modern facility that accommodates growing student demand for arts education programs. CWU's world renowned music, theatre arts, and visual arts programs are currently spread among several buildings that do

not provide enough appropriate space for these unique disciplines. This project will not only provide the needed instructional, studio, and gallery space but it will also reduce operating costs and help bring the campus into compliance with the Clean Buildings Act and Climate Commitment Act.

CWU is also requesting Capital Budget funding for the following projects:

- **Sammamish Higher Education Center (\$9.8 million)** — This funding will purchase the building, which is currently owned by the City of Sammamish. The rent is escalating to rates that CWU cannot afford to continue paying and so this is the only way the center can continue financially.
- **Aviation Degree Expansion (\$9.9 million)** – This funding will allow CWU to build a new instructional hangar at the Bowers Field airport, where CWU conducts all its flight training. CWU has the only program in the state with a bachelor of science in aviation and currently enrollment is capped due to the lack of a better airport facility.

