

Campus Infrastructure



Introduction

The University of Windsor is situated on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations: the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. To date, the University of Windsor has 56 owned properties and 4 leased buildings which span 125 acres across West Windsor and the Downtown area. The University of Windsor continues to invest in its campus buildings and digital infrastructure to enhance teaching and learning; research and creative activity; community engagement; and the campus experience. In recent years, the University has prioritized reducing the environmental burden of its business operations to achieve a sustainable society, and has worked toward meeting the evolving expectations for technology-driven initiatives that enable an innovative work and learning environment.

Facts and Figures

- The institution's oldest owned building is Assumption Hall which was constructed in 1875.
- The total square footage of campus buildings is 3,720,769 sq. ft.
- Renovations across campus over the past five years have totaled more than \$8 million.
- The downtown campus, launched in 2015, is comprised of 5 buildings with a total square footage of 155,097 sq. ft. To date, downtown campus renovations have cost \$87.9 million.
- The University's total GHG Emissions is 23,543 tCO₂e.
- Deferred maintenance was last estimated on a consolidated basis in 2018 and was estimated at \$106 million for academic buildings. The operating budget includes an annual deferred maintenance allocation of \$2 million. The provincial government supports deferred maintenance costs through the Facility Renewal Program, which totaled \$3.1 million in 2021.

Current Capital Projects

Toldo Lancer Centre

- The multi-purpose facility is the new home to the University's recreational services and intercollegiate sports and varsity teams, and also a new space to connect, gather, and host international, national, and provincial games and championships and other large-scale events. The centre will provide research opportunities, employment for students, expand community partnerships and support neighbourhood organizations.
- The state-of-the-art accessible facility features a triple gymnasium with seating for 2,000 spectators; an eight-lane, 25-metre pool; a recreational walking/running track; a fitness centre; and multi-purpose rooms.
- The expansion and renovations for the [Toldo Lancer Centre](#) are estimated to total \$73 million and expected completion is set for June 2022.

Ron W. Ianni Faculty of Law Building

- The Windsor Law building is currently undergoing extensive renovations. This transformation will provide better space for teaching, learning and collaboration while serving the accessibility need of a diverse population.
- The [Windsor Law](#) building transformation is estimated to cost approximately \$35 million.
- The expected completion date of renovations is Winter 2023.

300 Ouellette Avenue Building

- In February 2022, the University of Windsor took possession of its fifth building in the downtown campus, 300 Ouellette Avenue. The building was purchased for \$6.7 million.
- Redevelopment is currently underway. Planning for the University's usage of new facility aims at strong community and industry partnership including integrated collaborative and workspaces in support of tech innovation, work-integrated learning and cutting-edge skills training in applied computing.

Environmental Focus

- In 2017, the University of Windsor was ranked among the greenest post-secondary institutions in North America by the Princeton Review¹.
- Since 2018, generated savings from the utilities budget has been reinvested into sustainability initiatives. In the last five years, approximately \$11 million was spent on energy sustainability and power saving projects.
- Recent efforts toward sustainability across campus include buildings with LEED specifications, upgrades and retrofits, HVAC system replacements, water bottle filling stations, living walls, green roofs and grey-water collection. There have also been campus greening efforts such as the tree planting program, natural lawns, and parking spaces returned to green space.
- In 2021, the Board of Governors approved \$7.2 million for a new, dual-electric chiller which is expected to reduce our carbon footprint by 3,000 tonnes (approximately 15% reduction).

Digital Infrastructure

- In 2021, the Office of Open Learning and Information Technology Services initiated a comprehensive project that encompassed major updates to AV / IT technologies in several campus classrooms, along with targeted wireless network enhancements were completed to support the University's return to campus plan for Fall 2021.
- As part of this project, 19 larger capacity classrooms across campus were updated and 8 mobile carts deployed with hyflex technology to facilitate hybrid delivery of more than 200 courses during Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 terms.

¹ University of Windsor. Daily News. (2018). Windsor wins high ranking for environmental commitment. <https://www.uwindsor.ca/dailynews/2018-02-08/windsor-wins-high-ranking-environmental-commitment>

- In the time since, the University has made additional investments to update technology in 8 campus meeting rooms to support flexible work arrangements and has applied for and received MCU grant funding that will be used to create new active and collaborative learning classrooms, update select existing hyflex classrooms to extend functionality to enhance audience interaction and upgrade Nursing computing labs to support achievement of accessibility and micro credentialing requirements.
- Continuing projects are planned to update and expand AV capability in other prioritized campus spaces as part of IT Services evergreening strategies.
- In total since the start of the pandemic, an investment of approximately \$2 million has been made in classroom, meeting room and related technology updates, funded through MCU programs (\$600K) and the University (\$1.4 million).
- UWindsor has a robust digital learning infrastructure, which, along with the LMS, includes [YuJa](#) (lecture recording, video-based quizzes, media creation and management), Microsoft Teams/Office 365, [Blackboard Collaborate Virtual Classroom](#), [BetterExaminations](#) (online assessment), [Panorama](#) (digital accessibility system), [Equatio and Read&Write](#) (digital math and literacy support tools), [Leganto](#) (integrated class resource lists/access), [ePortfolios](#) (WordPress), as well supporting faculty to use provincially provided tools including [Pressbooks](#) (open publishing/open textbook system), [H5P](#) (interactive learning tools), and the [Ontario Open Library](#).
- In addition to digital learning infrastructure, the institution has transformed a number of elements of critical digital infrastructure in recent years, including the UWinsite Finance and UWinsite Student implementations, VIP (HR system) upgrades, moved to a unified email and office suite service in Office 365, a new continuing education management system (Destiny One), a new customer relations management (CRM) system in recruitment, updated Drupal version (university websites), the SafeLancer App, a campus wayfinding system, continual updates to cybersecurity infrastructure such as the firewall, and a new payments receipt system. These come on top of renewal of aspects of the campus' physical digital infrastructure campus including storage, servers and network capacity, updating and expanding wireless access points, electronic door lock management system.
- A [review of the current Learning Management System](#) (Blackboard) was initiated in 2021 as a result of required changes by the vendor, which led to an RFP being issued to select the next LMS for campus. The RFP and selection process was informed by the hundreds of faculty, staff and students who contributed their ideas and experiences to the process.

Best Practices and Other Resources

- The [Campus Master Plan](#) (CMP) established a vision for the next 50 years, with an attractive design intended to enrich both the student and community experience and positions the university to be more competitive. The CMP features:

- Waterfront Commons with an amphitheatre style venue, international gateway signage and banners, and an enhanced entrance to the campus crossing Riverside Drive.
- Leddy Library Commons with activity spaces, garden study spaces, and rooftop terraces.
- Student Commons with outdoor terraces with seating and table clusters, planting beds and sculptures surrounding the CAW.
- Science Commons with a free-standing interactive wall for science kiosks and display panels, multi-use learning spaces for science fairs and demonstrations, and a Discovery Route along Sunset Avenue.
- The [Capital Transformation Plan](#) (CTP) works in conjunction with the CMP to set the direction to develop the campus and continue to transform it in way that will best meet the needs of stakeholders.
 - The first significant campus transformation project was the Centre for Engineering Innovation (CEI), which was completed in 2012. The University has allocated approximately \$300 million through Phase I of this plan, of which 41% came from grants. Phase II launched with Essex CORE, and supports ongoing projects including the Faculty of Law building transformation and the Toldo Lancer Centre construction. Project allocations in Phase II have been approximately \$200 million.
 - The Campus Transformation [webpage](#) includes more detailed information for the University of Windsor's physical infrastructure plans, ongoing projects and recent successes.
- Information Technology Services (ITS) is continuing to work through the [IT Strategic Plan](#) it established in 2018 and is undertaking the opportunity to review and re-assess its strategic priorities in light of the recent University Strategic Mandate Agreement ([SMA3](#)), COVID-19, and the current institutional Strategic Planning process. ITS is considering the following key activities to support the campus in its digital journey:
 - Establish a sufficient, skilled and sustainable pool of available technical infrastructure, human and financial resources;
 - Continue to develop training programs and technical support resources in collaboration with the Office of Open Learning and Centre for Teaching and Learning to enhance digital competencies of campus stakeholders;
 - Leverage and expand use of its IT Service Management system (ITSM) to enhance speed and quality of service delivery;
 - Identify opportunities to consolidate enterprise architecture to deliver more integrated, less resource-intensive solutions; and
 - Through established governance processes, ensure technology decisions identify and address expanding needs and other accessibility related considerations.

Thinking Questions

1. Do we have enough space and are we assigning it to the right activities?
2. What are the future needs of students, staff, and faculty in terms of space and technology?
3. How do you want to access the campus in the future?
4. How do you want to use the campus spaces? If it's not all offices, what are they for?
5. How deep is our understanding of where digital change is occurring?
6. Are our teams collaborating effectively across functions to manage digital change?
7. Do we have an established process to test and learn new technologies?
8. Is there available funding to support digital change and is it tied to key performance indicators?
9. Are there processes to review and challenge proposed solutions to address digital change?
10. Is the current IT infrastructure capable to support and sustain required pace of digital change?
11. Is digital change being addressed from multiple perspectives and aligned with campus priorities?