

July 21, 2004, Statewide Capacity Study Report Excerpts

Executive Summary

Ohio has 38 public colleges and universities. During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, Ohio's state funded higher education facilities accommodated 358,943 FTE students and 59,214 FTE faculty and staff to educate and serve them.

The first major conclusion of this study is that, at the state level, Ohio's public higher education system was operating almost at capacity in FY 2003. In particular, the study shows that each category of space was in use at the following levels:

Table 2: Percentage of Space in Use, Statewide Totals

Space Category	% Space In Use
Classrooms	96%
Classroom Labs	90%
Offices	98%
Residence Halls	98%

Given these utilization levels, Ohio's public colleges and universities could have accommodated an additional 17,656 FTE students and an additional 1,333 FTE faculty and/or staff in FY 2003. However, recent estimates indicate that 9,385 additional FTE students enrolled in public campuses in FY 2004, and another 13,186 students will enroll during the 2005 and 2006 fiscal years. This enrollment growth would virtually fill Ohio's 2003 classrooms, classroom labs, and residence halls by FY 2006 if no additional space becomes available.

Ohio seems to be at least adequately provided with higher education facilities during FY 2003, although Ohio is by no means over-endowed. This initial conclusion, however, is wrong because it overlooks the fact that 31% of Ohio's classrooms, classroom labs, and offices were physically obsolete or required rehabilitation at costs exceeding 25% of replacement value, as shown in Figure 1.

Conclusions

This study concludes that, while Ohio's state-funded colleges and universities may *appear* to have just enough space to meet *current* enrollment demand, a significant amount of that space is in need of some form of replacement or major rehabilitation.

- When only space that is satisfactory or only requires minor rehabilitation is considered, there are major space shortfalls in every space category.
- These space shortfalls will become more pronounced as student enrollment increases over the next few years and as space standards change to meet the pedagogical and technological needs of a strong higher education system.
- Most requests (78%) for capital funds in the 2006 biennium were sought to improve or replace existing space.

To meet Ohio's education needs, the state-funded higher education community and state decision makers must continue to address the problem of aging facilities and consider the space changes needed to accommodate modern teaching pedagogy, technology, and future growth in enrollment and research.