

Campus Master Plan

The Master Plan is the physical expression of the values shared by the campus community and its neighbors. It restores the pastoral character of the campus, creates a walkable campus, and concentrates buildings at the campus core to foster a sense of community.

Building Concept

New construction and additions to existing buildings are designed to promote sustainability and to give the campus a unified and harmonious appearance. Buildings serve as background and are used to organize and shape the campus environment, to create outdoor rooms and corridors. Residential and academic uses are interwoven to create a high level of activity at the campus center at all times of the day and evening.

Walter Gleason Gymnasium and Recreation Center

The gym is expanded to include updated workout facilities for intercollegiate athletics and general student use.

Residence Halls

A 100-bed facility is planned just east of the library along the northern edge of the Great Lawn and a 200-bed facility just west of St. Joseph's Hall. Given the critical shortage of student housing, the University must increase the supply of on-campus housing to continue to attract and retain traditional university-aged students. Situated at the heart of campus, the new residence halls strengthen the presence of the resident student community and ensure activity at the campus core.

Campus Center

The new Campus Center is the social heart of the campus and contains the bookstore, central dining, student programs, and space for events. The building opens onto its own plaza, which is used for outdoor dining and informal gathering. Oriented toward the Great Lawn, the Campus Center helps to frame and enliven this central outdoor space.

Library

The use of the library is re-evaluated, and the building redesigned, to accommodate and integrate new technologies. The main entrance now faces the Great Lawn. Quieter functions, such as private study carrels, are located on the north side of the building, which looks out onto the Spiritual Garden.

Julie Billiard Hall

Julie Billiard Hall is converted from a residence hall to faculty offices, providing needed space for individual work and faculty-student meetings. Located on the Great Lawn, this new use of Julie Billiard Hall greatly enhances the opportunity for interaction between students and faculty.

St. Mary's Hall

The renovation of St. Mary's provides much needed classroom and lab space, designed to 21st century standards. The addition creates a continuous building edge along the southern side of the Great Lawn. St. Mary's also houses certain Campus Center functions to encourage an active flow of people across the central campus space.

Theatre

The theatre is expanded to include workshop space for set construction, costume design and production, and to allow the Theatre Department to expand its course offerings and enhance productions.



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Landscape Concept

Landscape is the fabric that ties the campus together. Emphasis is given to the spaces between buildings—the Great Lawn, the Spiritual Garden—and to the pathways and "boulevards" that connect them. The rich and varied landscape proposed by the master plan restores the character, scale, and intimacy of a traditional university campus.

Tabard Square/Terraced Garden

Tabard Square—the preserved “ruin” of the Tabard Inn patio, is an outdoor room with ivy-covered walls and a tree canopy overhead. Next to Tabard Square is the Terraced Garden, a quiet garden room with southern exposure, stepping up the hillside above Madison Art Center.

Spiritual Garden

Located between the library, gymnasium and chapel, the Spiritual Garden celebrates the intersection of the mind, body and soul of the campus. A sunken labyrinth is set within a grid of bamboo. The precisely set bamboo columns and veil-like canopy of foliage create a meditative, light-filled space.

Central Plaza

The Central Plaza is located at a dynamic junction of the campus—at the intersection of the upper and lower campus and of the natural and cultivated landscape. This is a place of constant activity and will serve as a favorite spot for people-watching.

Great Lawn

The Great Lawn is the physical, social, and emotional center of campus. This spacious lawn lined by double rows of shade trees epitomizes the green character of the campus. A contained and memorable place surrounded by important campus buildings and functions, the Great Lawn links the plateau with the lower campus and serves as the daily gathering place for the entire campus community.

Campus Entry/Entry Plaza

The campus entry introduces the nature of the entire campus with its emphasis on the landscape and direct pedestrian access. A broad, tree-lined staircase links the Ralston Avenue entry with the plateau. Here the entry plaza/drop-off serves as the forecourt to the Great Lawn and upper campus. Pedestrians and emergency vehicles only are allowed beyond this point.

Creek

The creek management plan helps to enhance the natural environment of the campus. Riparian willows, oaks, brush and grasses along the creek, paralleling College Way, are preserved and non-native species and debris removed to restore the creek to its indigenous habitat. A pedestrian bridge and path allow access to the creek.

