



Academic Planning for the Core

Why the Core Matters and Why NYU Needs Access to Space on the Superblocks

This document traces the 20-year plan for projected growth at NYU, with a main focus of the great promise of the Superblocks to the University's future academic needs at the Core. *As with any long-term plan, details with respect to specific academic projects, their prioritization, site location, and timing may change as the academic plans evolve over time.*

Background

- 12 of the 18 NYU Schools and Institutes are located at the Core and existing facilities are at or near full capacity.
- The Core facilities accommodate over 41,000 full and part-time students and over 5,000 full and part-time faculty.
- The projected growth of the student body is at an average of .5% annually. This would increase the student body to 46,500 (approx. 50% grad, 50% undergrad) by 2031.
- The 2031 planning process anticipates and aggregates the individual school needs projected over two decades.
 - As a response to long-standing community concerns, which were based on two decades of ad hoc, opportunistic real-estate acquisitions and construction projects around the neighborhood, the University embarked on this space planning process called 2031. The first such effort, its goal was to provide the University with a better strategic plan for future growth and provide the community with a long-term, predictable and transparent plan.
 - The projections are that the University could need as much as 3 million square feet between now and 2031 in order to fulfill the academic growth needs of the schools at or near the Core.
 - The proposal is to accommodate as much of that as possible on our existing footprint, in the Superblocks. The balance will be sought in the neighborhood, consistent with NYU's consideration of the principles outlined by the Community Task Force on NYU development.
 - The plan also calls for dispersing a full 3 million square feet to other academic hubs including the Health Corridor and Downtown Brooklyn.

Why the Core Matters

NYU has carefully considered which university functions require location at the Washington Square campus. These judgments are part of the University's academic strategic planning, and also take into account the realities of the New York City real-estate market and the inability of the Washington Square campus to accommodate all of NYU's space needs.

A central, core campus has significant educational advantages. Co-locating faculty offices, classrooms, research facilities, student service spaces, dormitories and faculty housing at the Washington Square Campus encourages interaction among NYU's faculty and students, interaction between faculty members in diverse disciplines, interdisciplinary research teams and academic and social engagement with the University.

Like other universities, NYU believes that physical proximity in a campus setting is crucial to promote integration of disciplines and interaction among the faculty and students, and thus to create a learning and research community. An interchange of ideas among various intellectual disciplines is greatly facilitated by having several schools in one place, and it is key to the accomplishments of NYU's faculty, graduates, and students. Such interchange is increasingly required to advance research agendas, at the interstices of disciplines, which is increasingly the pattern in higher education. For example, at NYU, neural science with psychology, mathematics with computer science, languages with literatures, and economics with politics are all co-located to provide a platform for a full learning experience.

- Of the Schools at the Core, nine (Arts & Science, Steinhardt, Tisch, Stern, Gallatin, Liberal Studies, Social Work, Continuing and Professional Studies, and Nursing) provide undergraduate degrees. **Undergraduates** are required under New York State law to take at least 25% of their degree requirements in the liberal arts, primarily taken in the College of Arts and Science ("the College") which is at the heart of the Core. Some schools (e.g., Stern and Gallatin) require that their students take close to 50% of their degree requirements in the College.
 - In 2015, when the Nursing College relocates from the Core to the Health Corridor, undergraduate nursing students will be the first to meet their course requirements on two campuses. The decision to move the Nursing College to the Health Corridor reflected a balance of considerations – the value of housing Nursing proximate to the Dental and Medical Schools, the availability of space for an expanded program of teaching and research, and the improved opportunity to properly train nursing students and conduct research in collaboration with the Medical and Dental faculty.
- At the **graduate** level, the curriculum is increasingly evolving to a cross-school, cross-disciplinary structure, at both the master's and doctoral level, with students taking courses in more than one school – again – a curriculum enabled by the close proximity of the Schools.

- As examples, the Stern School of Business has nine dual degree programs with other NYU schools.
 - In some cases, the University is considering whether and how graduate programs can be conducted at one of the other academic hubs. For example, we are relocating one or more existing graduate programs in digital design, including the cognitive, cultural and engineering aspects of digital games to Downtown Brooklyn, where there are useful adjacencies to the NYU-Poly engineering programs.
- For **faculty** and their research at the Core, an outstanding structural advantage is the opportunity to seek colleagues across schools to conduct the most effective cutting-edge research at the interstices of interdisciplinary scholarship. NYU has a plethora of research centers and institutes that unite faculty across schools and departments. Many of these are major internationally renown centers of scholarship; many are committed to public outreach and run energetic programs of lectures, films, seminars and the like; and all require space apart from and outside of the schools.
 - Living at and near Washington Square is a major recruitment tool for students and faculty who want to come to New York City and live near the main academic facilities, their peers and friends and share in the scholarly life that is typical to a University community, all while taking advantage of the world's greatest City and involving themselves in the Greenwich Village community. The University provides faculty and student housing which is both proximate to and away from the main Washington Square campus.

At the Core - An Acute Lack of Space & The Promise of the Superblocks

Science

- NYU has a fraction of the space it needs for science and research and science is *the* most urgent need at NYU and its highest priority. Much is being planned at the remote academic hubs, but it is vital to continue to build the basic science platform located at the Core.
- The ability of our faculty to conduct research and compete for federal and industrial research dollars and philanthropy is constrained by inadequate space. This problem is particularly acute in the physical and life sciences, social sciences and education; but it is a problem that exists for nearly all of the Schools and Departments at NYU. This has had a deleterious impact on both faculty recruitment and faculty retention for the University, with a number of faculty candidates choosing to go to campuses where they can be assured of adequate space.
- In many departments, including our major science departments, there is simply no space into which new faculty can be hired.

- In the last 35 years the University has built only one new building of 71,000 GSF for the Center for Genomics and Systems Biology. New Chemistry space was achieved by dislocating 40,000 GSF of classroom space.
- There have been over 100 hires in the past 7 years in the Sciences and there are projected to be another 50; however, until adequate laboratory facilities are available, new recruiting efforts are hampered.
- Science teaching laboratories at NYU are crowded, outdated, and in some cases outfitted with unsuitable equipment.
- A growing number of students are interested in the sciences and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers, but without the ability to grow the Core facilities, we will need to limit the enrollment in these fields due to inadequate teaching lab space that is part of the required curriculum.

The Superblocks provide the opportunity to expand Science in existing Loft Block space, particularly, by relocating classroom space to the Superblocks.

In the near and long-term, the promise of space on the Superblocks for faculty offices and departmental space provides the Schools with the ability to manage faculty recruitment and align it with potential space needs of the future.

Classrooms

- By a standard measure, NYU should be providing 30 percent more classroom space and twice as much laboratory teaching space than it does.
 - NYU has only 3 large auditoria, severely limiting our ability to offer large lecture classes or schedule special academic assemblies.
 - Many NYU classrooms are inappropriately situated on high floors in loft-block buildings, creating traffic jams and queues of students waiting for elevators that literally stretch outside. Despite efforts to correct the problem, there remain over 50 classrooms on floors 4 or higher, with few options of where to relocate them.
 - The daytime utilization rate for NYU's classroom inventory is higher than 80% -- comparing unfavorably to the standard of 70% utilization. This means that classrooms cannot be cleaned during the day and there is no "cushion" to meet building emergencies that decommission classrooms.
 - There is virtually no capacity to accommodate new courses, new kinds of courses that have special seating arrangements or specialized equipment.
 - The size of NYU's classroom inventory in 2012 is virtually the same as it was in 2008, despite changing patterns of educating our students and enrollment growth.

The Superblocks are vital to providing future classroom decompression, growth and relocation out of the Loft Blocks (again, allowing for Science to grow).

Performance Space

- Tisch School of the Arts is top ranked nationally and has tripled its performing arts enrollment over the past two decades – without proportionately growing its space.
- Performance space is inadequate, obsolete, sometimes unsafe and cramped.
- Tisch studies in the performing arts have deep connections to local community theaters – that can only be nurtured by its continued presence in the Core.
- An exhaustive investigation has determined that the special requirements that attach to performance space cannot be met by renovating other existing facilities at the Core.

The Superblocks provide a unique opportunity for this specialized facility and other performance spaces to be accommodated within the NYU Core.

Student and Faculty Meeting Space and Student Study Space

- NYU is deficient in providing adequate study space for its student population. As a standard rule of thumb, the University should provide study area “seats” for one-quarter of its student population. At NYU, this would mean we should have over 9,600 seats, yet the University provides fewer than 3,000.
- There is very limited space for student clubs, student meetings, faculty gatherings and conferences and other important components of campus life. The Kimmel Center for University Life is the main University Center and hosts over 31,000 bookings of its facilities in a year, is visited by over 1 million visitors in a year, and yet, probably does not meet even half of the demand by students and faculty who are constantly in search of space to host their meetings and scholarly activities.

The promise of the Superblocks comes with the necessary decompression of existing facilities (i.e., the library, other academic buildings) to free up appropriate space for meeting and conference rooms; for study areas and an entire new student annex space.

School and Department Growth: Steinhardt, Stern, Gallatin, Social Work, Arts and Science, Wagner

- All of these schools represent real and urgent needs for space in the Core. The needs primarily focus on the ability to decompress existing facilities and provide new space that allows them to recruit faculty, and particularly faculty who conduct research.

The Superblocks will provide near and long-term assured opportunities for locations for faculty and research.