

Informed planning, design, and evaluation of repurposed
campus building for medical education headquarters

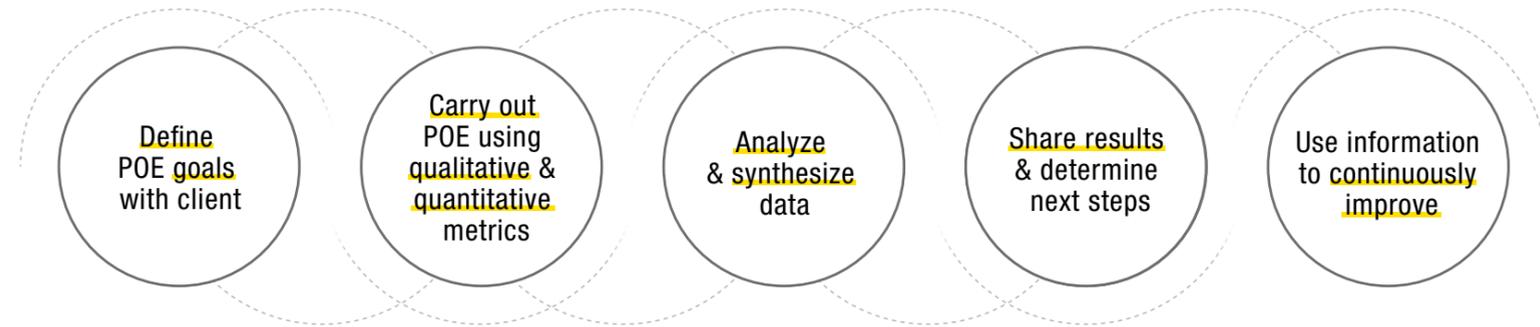
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, WWAMI PROGRAM
HUCKABAY MEDICAL EDUCATION BUILDING
POST OCCUPANCY EVALUATION

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APPROACH

We believe it is our responsibility as architects and planners to promote the health, well-being, safety, and productivity of users of the buildings Flad designs. Just as we plan, detail, document, and monitor the construction of our projects with great care, we also approach evaluating our buildings after delivery with careful attention to provide the best possible outcomes for our clients. For this performance assessment, Flad utilizes a post occupancy evaluation (POE).



WHAT IS A POE?

A post occupancy evaluation is defined as “the process of systematically and rigorously evaluating buildings after occupancy and providing feedback for improvement.”
- Preiser, Rabinowitz, & White (1988).

WHY CONDUCT A POE?

Conducting a POE is a mutually beneficial activity that allows clients, building occupants, and firms to:

- Measure how well the building meets established guiding principles and overall project goals
- Promote a culture of continuous improvement and ongoing learning
- Inform and enhance future facility designs
- Foster a high level of engagement by hearing directly from building occupants

EVALUATING A NEW HOME FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS AND FACULTY

The University of Idaho is a member of UW School of Medicine: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI), a program dedicated to providing access to publicly supported, community-based medical education across a five-state region for students in their first two years of medical school. The Medical Education Building repurposes an existing campus building to provide a new home for WWAMI and showcase its identity with a prominent gateway location.

Flad’s POE provided a performance assessment, validation of occupants’ real needs, and an opportunity to spotlight and enhance the vibrant culture the new dedicated medical education building provides for faculty, staff, and students.

Study conducted by Flad Architects November 2022





THE HUCKABAY MEDICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

Recognizing the importance of collaboration, the University of Idaho sought a to create a permanent, dedicated home for medical students and faculty. The Medical Education Building establishes a headquarters for the WWAMI program on campus with a focus on informal learning and meaningful faculty-student interactions by providing an expanded student lounge, flexible and interactive learning spaces, and faculty offices.

INFORMED PLANNING & DESIGN

- 1 Support the program's plan to double enrollment and update the curriculum
- 2 Establish the university's first dedicated medical education building
- 3 Create a connection to Gritman Medical Center where students get real world experience, increasing student interaction with practicing physicians
- 4 Design flexible classroom space that can accommodate a range of uses

PERSONALIZED PROCESS

Flad's POEs are customized to the individual goals of each study and the information the client is interested in gathering. Project-specific POE goals:

- **Observe** the types of study activities and interactions occurring in the space.
- **Measure** how well spaces are being utilized and understand if the spaces meet the needs of the WWAMI program occupants.
- **Evaluate** current layout, adjacencies, and flow in order to identify advantages or deficiencies.
- **Assess** how effectively interior environmental conditions, furnishings, tools and technology support teaching, individual study, and group work.
- **Analyze** how the space aids occupants in forming connections and the impact those connections have on wellbeing and educational success.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Survey to understand user satisfaction and effectiveness of the space. Deployed to:

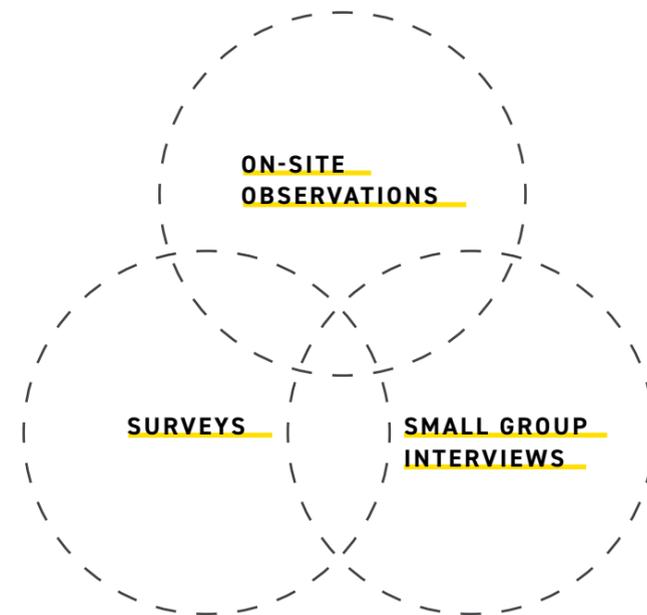
- Medical Students
- WWAMI Faculty and Staff

On-site Visual Observations

- Photographs
- Time-lapse Videos
- Manual Utilization Documentation

Small Group Interviews

- Group 1 - Students
- Group 2 - Staff



TOPICS EVALUATED

General Satisfaction

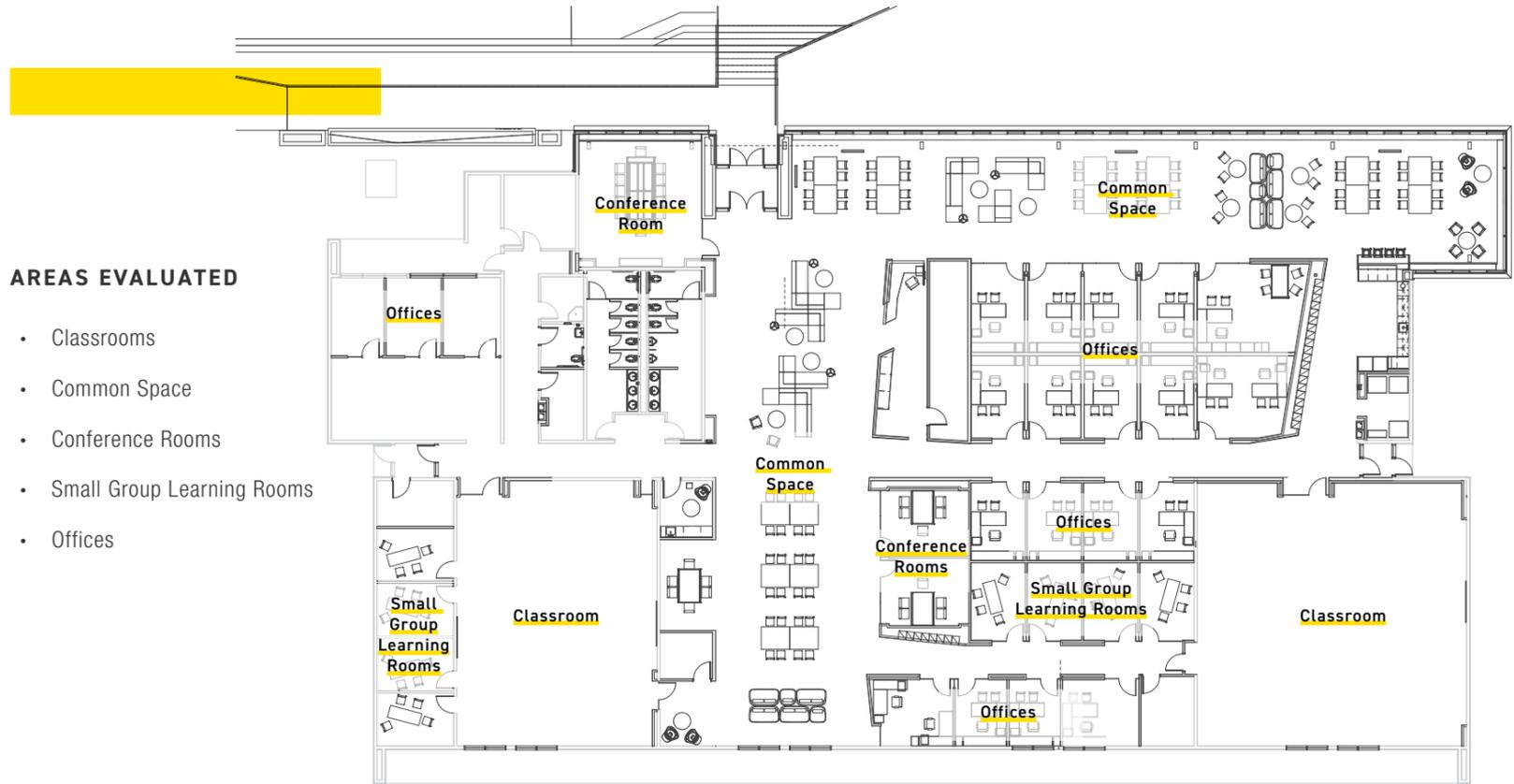
-  Faculty, Staff, and Student Experience with the Space
-  Environmental Quality of the Space

Utilization & Effectiveness

-  Overview of Space Use & Availability
-  Effectiveness of Space for Individual and Group Work

Importance of In-person Interactions

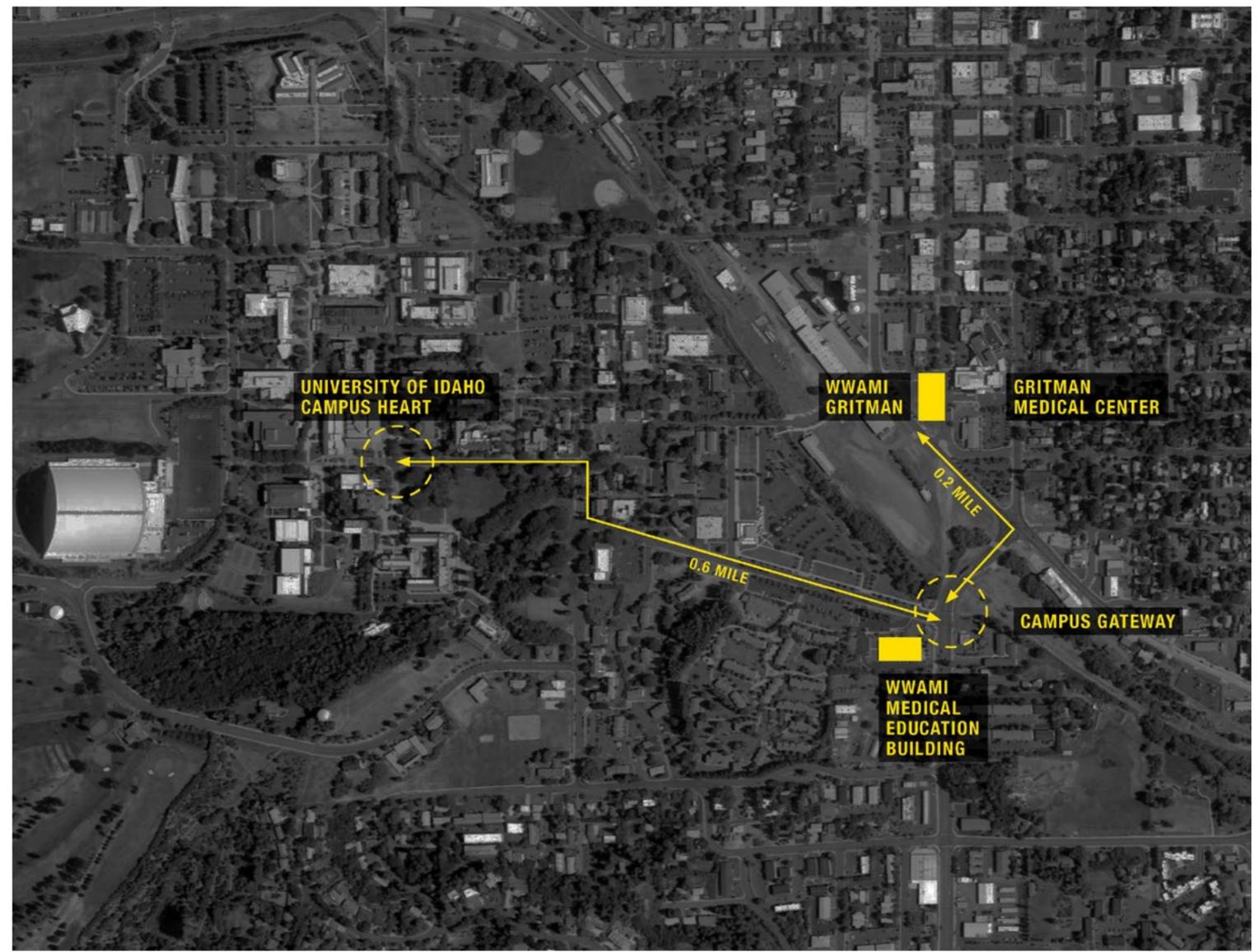
-  Co-location of Offices, Classrooms, and Study Spaces
-  How do Spontaneous Interactions Occur
-  Value of In-person Interactions



- BUILDING STATS**
- 20,000 GSF
[17,000 sf - renovation, 3,000 sf - addition]
 - June 2019 - Completion
 - Moscow, Idaho



CAMPUS OVERVIEW



GENERAL SATISFACTION

- The Huckabay Building is a beautiful space with modern technologies that successfully supports the WWAMI program in its student-centered education endeavors
- Over 92% of occupants are satisfied with the design and campus location of the of the building

n (sample size) = 59

HUCKABAY BUILDING DESIGN



LOCATION OF HUCKABAY BUILDING ON CAMPUS



○ Neutral ◐ Satisfied ● Very Satisfied



BUILDING IMPACT

- 85% of students, staff, and faculty expressed the building contributed positively to their experiences at the university
- 71% of staff/faculty and 53% of students said the building had a positive effect on recruitment

n = 59

HUCKABAY BUILDING IMPACT ON STUDENT EXPERIENCE & FACULTY/STAFF RETENTION

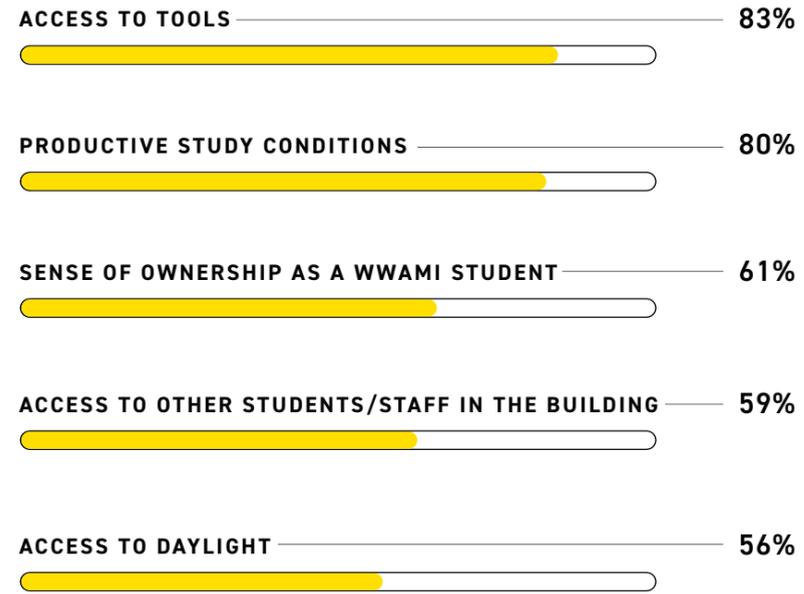


HUCKABAY BUILDING IMPACT ON STUDENT & FACULTY/STAFF RECRUITMENT



● N/A ○ Neutral ◐ Somewhat Positive Impact ● Strong Positive Impact

FEATURES ATTRACTING STUDENTS TO THE BUILDING

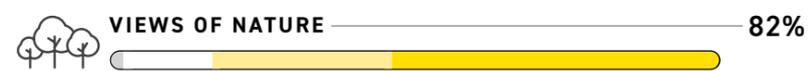


% are out of med student respondents. n = 41

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

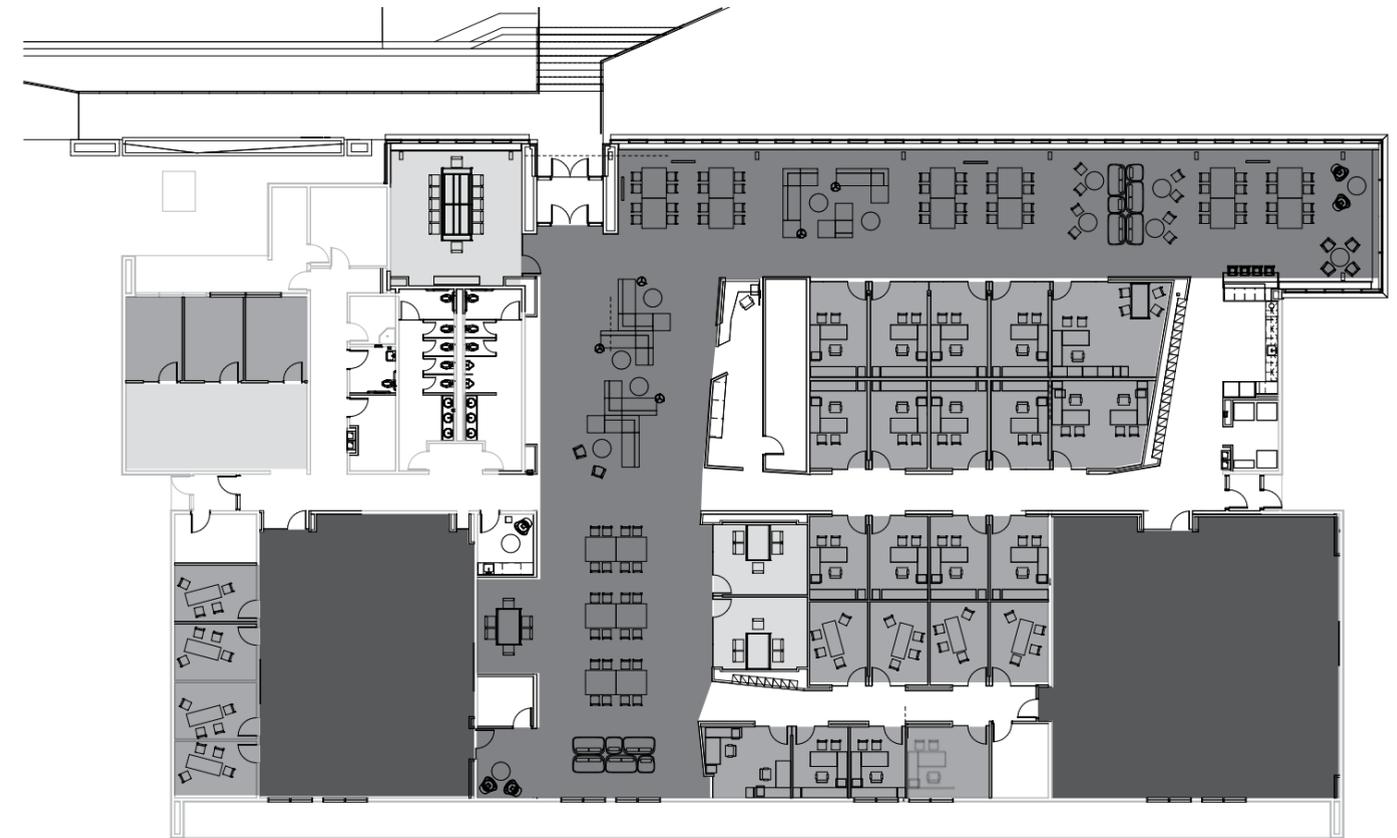
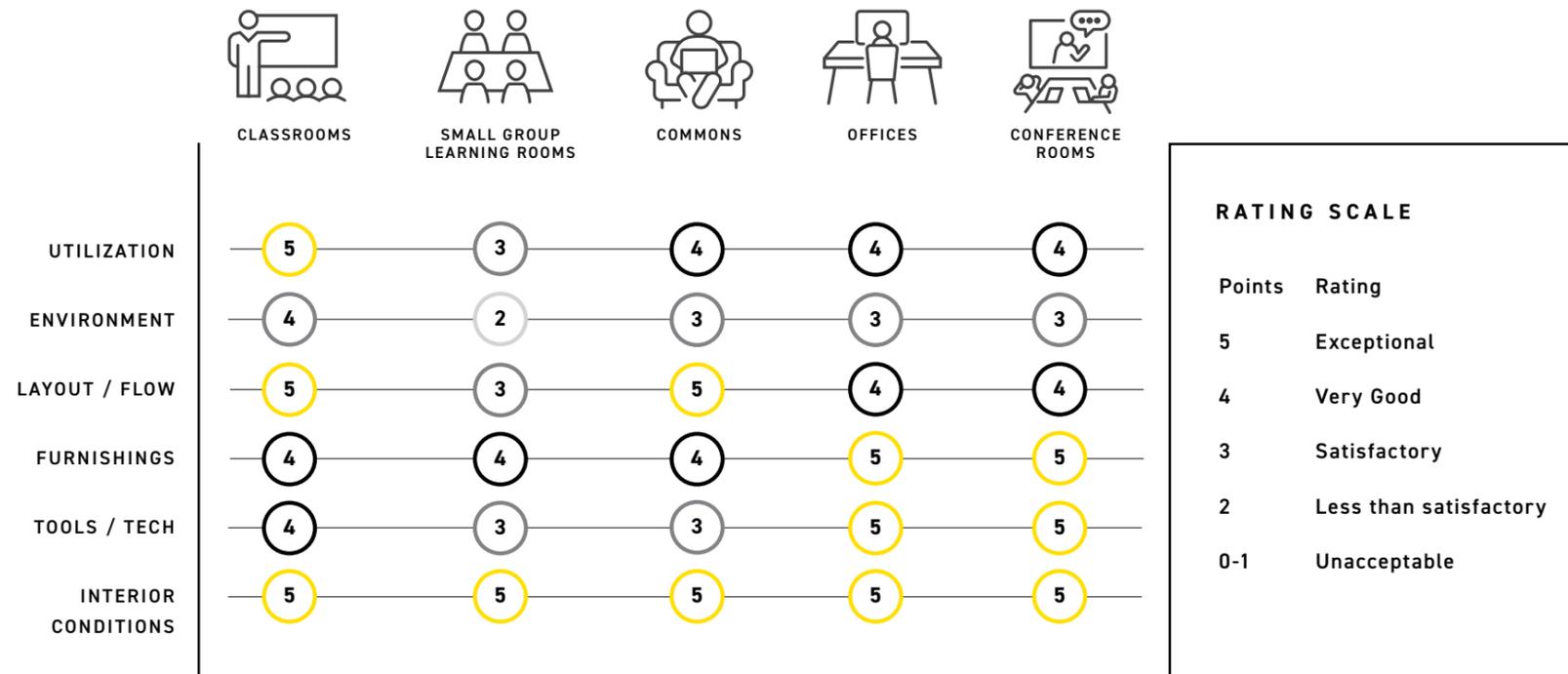
Dissatisfied
 I Don't Know
 Neutral
 Satisfied
 Very Satisfied

Percentages of satisfaction. n = 56 for below graphs



UTILIZATION & EFFECTIVENESS

- Whiteboards throughout the building are highly utilized, and more are desired. 85% of students reported to need whiteboards for individual and group work.
- Glass doors are beneficial for feeling connected and encouraging interactions, but are not providing enough acoustical privacy.
- Overall, the building performs very well. The lowest scoring attribute is environment due to issues such as unsatisfactory ventilation related to the age of the building and HVAC system.



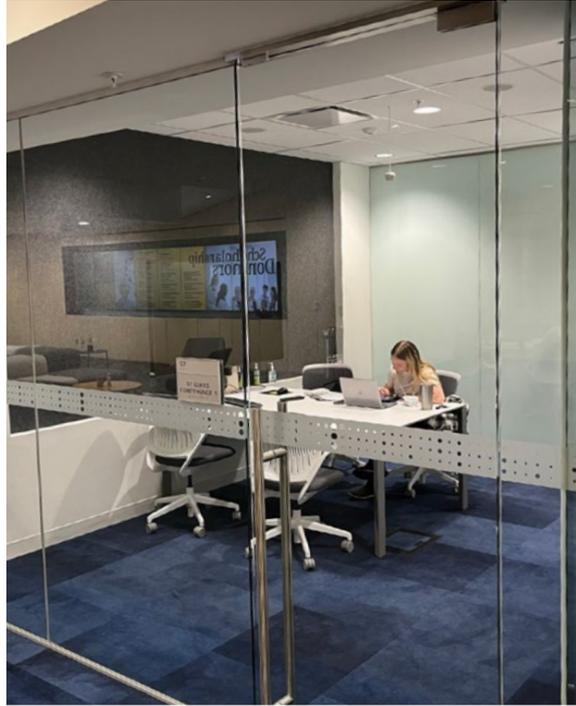
MOST USED LEAST USED

SPACE USE

Listed from most to least used - how much the average WWAMI person uses each space type relative to other spaces:

- Classrooms
- Common Space
- Offices & Small Group Learning Rooms (SGL)
- Conference Rooms

[View time lapse map of activity >>](#)



SMALL GROUP LEARNING & CONFERENCE ROOMS

- SGL Rooms have the most opportunity for improvement (see chart on page 16)
- In high-demand because they offer the best access to student-reported priority study tools - whiteboards, monitors, outlets, and quiet environment
- 77% of students said that availability prevents them from using small group learning rooms more often.
- Small group learning rooms are often occupied by only one person, in part due to poor ventilation and acoustics.

n = 39 for above numbers

CLASSROOMS

- Classrooms are being used as study spaces because of access to ample whiteboards, monitors, and outlets
- The large, enclosed room provides a quiet environment for small groups of students to study near each other, but still have their own space
- 95% of students, staff, and faculty reported that the technology in the classrooms had a positive impact on learning
- 89% of students, staff, and faculty reported that the flexible furniture in the classrooms had a positive impact on learning

n = 56 for above numbers

COMMON SPACE

- Used as an extension of the classroom
- Offers the best natural light
- Is a natural gathering area, instrumental in creating a vibrant and connected atmosphere
- Common space is underutilized for studying because it lacks enough student-reported priority study resources (whiteboards, monitors, outlets, and quiet environment)
- Only 44% of students prefer the common spaces for solo studying compared to the 66% that prefer the small group learning rooms

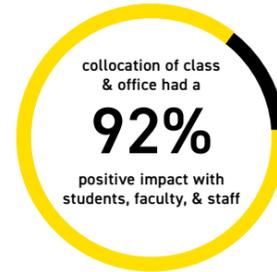
n = 41 for above numbers

[View time lapse video of south corridor common space >>](#)

[View time lapse video of north corridor common space >>](#)

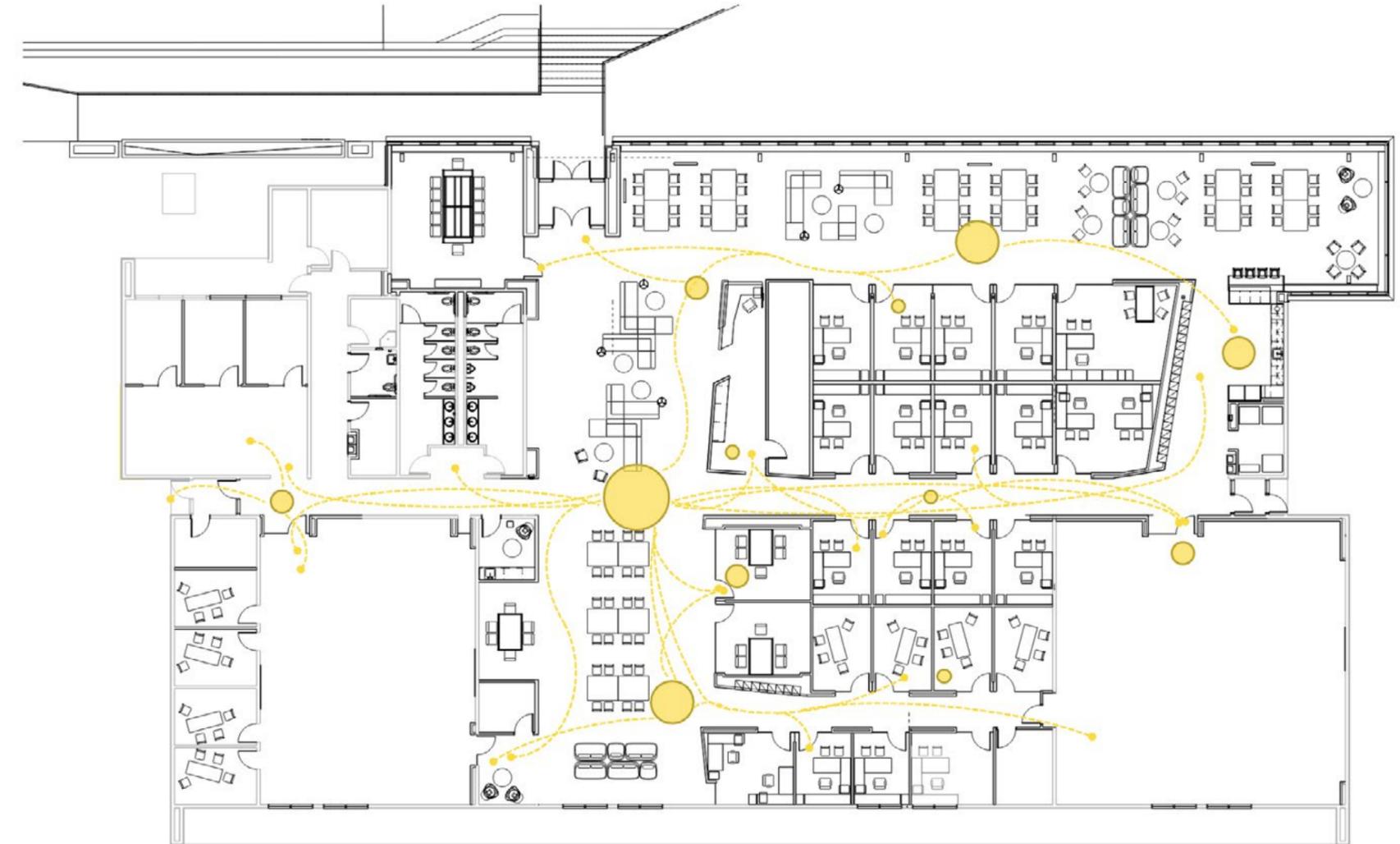
IN-PERSON INTERACTIONS

- Spontaneous interactions were reported to have a positive impact on social connectedness, well-being, professional and educational success, and job satisfaction.
- Creating a dedicated medical education building has had a strong positive impact and encourages students to study in the building.
- Collocating classrooms, study space, and staff and faculty offices in one building has strengthened relationships between occupants and improved student learning processes by making it easier to get questions answered quickly by faculty or other students.



Which of the following were positive impacts of in-person interaction?

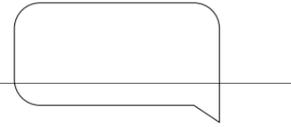
| | |
|-------------|---|
| 94% | SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS |
| 87% | HEALTH & WELL-BEING |
| 73% | PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS |
| 68% | EXTRACURRICULAR SUCCESS (STUDENTS) |
| 63% | COURSEWORK SUCCESS (STUDENTS) |
| 100% | JOB SATISFACTION (FACULTY/STAFF) |
| 67% | TEACHING SUCCESS (FACULTY) |



Observations revealed where students, staff, and faculty were crossing paths and interacting within the space and which spatial elements were fostering these connections. The spot of most interactions was a node of intersecting circulation paths between necessary functions (the two classrooms, the restrooms, the print area, and offices). The open common space at this intersection allowed people the space to pause and talk when they crossed paths. This created a dynamic and vibrant area in the southern open common space.

● size of circles indicates quantity of interactions occurring (larger = more interactions) - - - - common movement paths

QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK



It's a fun academic setting overall with everyone studying, things on the whiteboards all the time, professors interacting. It really feels like healthy learning all the time.

I think the building is beautiful - way better than other medical school facilities. It encourages me to come here and study.

When students are done with a test, they'll sit in the common space outside the classrooms to rehash the test and talk with peers. It's a cool interaction space for them.

I really like the whiteboards everywhere, it's my favorite thing... I like that there are segments in the classroom so it feels like different people can use different segments and you can have a collaborative aspect of being in the same room.

This building [and its common space] has promoted a sense of belonging among the students. They want to coningle. I think there are more spontaneous conversations occurring.

Connecting with students outside of the classroom helps improve rapport and helps increase faculty/student trust. It also helps me keep my work, including class prep and lecture delivery, student centered.

Having large classrooms and flexible furniture is helpful in allowing many different uses of the building.





KEY FINDINGS & OUTCOMES



INCREASED HEALTH & WELLNESS

Measuring environmental conditions, such as lighting and noise levels, uncovers issues that can be addressed to increase comfort and well-being.



IMPROVED UTILIZATION & AVAILABILITY

Verifying when and how spaces are used reveals opportunities for more efficient use of space and for spaces to better meet user needs. Additionally, it helps prove the need for additional space as future growth occurs.



CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

Understanding the importance of in-person interactions and how the building fosters them showcases the successful building design and curriculum choices, which can be replicated in the future.



“We really appreciate the work that went into this study and find the results very interesting. Thanks for the high quality work Flad is known for!”

Jeff Seegmiller EdD. AT,
Regional Dean / Director, Professor

DATA-DRIVEN PLANNING & CONSULTING

Flad offers a broad range of planning and consulting services, from helping clients define their overall strategic vision to providing technical expertise for highly specialized laboratory and medical environments. Our data-driven approach to planning includes leveraging space utilization studies, pre- and post-occupancy evaluations, data visualization tools, and our robust benchmarking database. We also provide consulting services to support teams through process improvement and change-management activities.

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