

SUNY Upstate Medical University

Space Reallocation Plan for Campus Activities Building

Syracuse, New York



Project Information

Completion Date
January 2010

Services Provided
Housing & Student Life Study
Master Plan/Space Optimization Study
Space Program

SUNY Upstate Medical University directed Rickes Associates to assess current and projected occupancy patterns associated with its Campus Activities Building.

Founded in 1834, SUNY Upstate Medical University, located in Syracuse, New York, enrolled 1,300 students in four academic divisions by 2010. Increased enrollment and demand for student services and health and wellness facilities led the University to regard the then-current allocation of space within its 40,000 net square foot Campus Activities Building (CAB), built in 1969, as poorly aligned with campus needs.

Rickes Associates (RA) evaluated the distribution and utilization of CAB space and determined current space needs based on relevant planning guidelines. Interviews and focus group meetings were held with key administrators and user groups to achieve an overview of space-related issues and perceived space inadequacies. A benchmarking analysis of services, spaces, and amenities was also conducted to evaluate the CAB against facilities at peer institutions.

As a result of this research, space needs were isolated and clarified for the various functions contained within the facility, including student activities; student financial aid and enrollment services; exercise, recreation, and athletic activities; and dining and retail functions. Two potential occupancy scenarios were developed in written and graphic formats presenting space allocation and adjacencies in a comprehensive building program for review by SUNY Upstate administrators.