

A discussion about the design of
Flexible and Adaptable Space
with the
Instructional Commission

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Challenges and Goals

The space you teach in affects student learning.

No one environment is optimum for all types of learning. We want to build space that will support learning through the first half of the 21st century.











Skill gaps change faster than we can build space.

Once a space need is identified, it can take four to eight years to get funding and complete construction. We want to design space the can be reconfigured to meet changing needs.

It is less expensive to more fully utilize space then to build more space.

Space is very expensive to construct, operate, and maintain. We want to use more of our space more of the time.

There was no consensus in our recent survey about what features or qualities would make a space more flexible or adaptable.

College Average Rank	Bellevue College	Bellingham Technical College	Big Bend Community College	Centralia College	Clark College	Clover Park Technical College	Columbia Basin College	Edmonds Community College	Everett Community College	Grays Harbor College	Green River Community College	Highline Community College	North Seattle Community College	Olympic College	Peninsula College	Renton Technical College	Shoreline Community College	Skagit Valley College	South Puget Sound Community Co	Spokane District	Spokane Falls Community College	Wenatchee Valley College	Yakima Valley Community College	Overall Rank (lower is better)
Rooms that have multiple uses - like computer lab and classroom.	4	4	3	6	2	1	3	2	2	5	1	1	9	3	1	4	8	1	4	1	6	5	6	 4.4
Rooms that have the latest technologies - like video conferencing or wifi coverage.	9	5	7	4	4	9	5	4	3	6	3	5	5	4	3	4	6	3	3	2	1	4	5	 4.5
Easy to move furniture.	10	5	4	5	3	4	4	5	2	6	2	7	7	7	6	5	4	5	2	8	5	6	5	 5.0
A good state of repair - like no roof leaks or broken fixtures.	11	4	6	4	8	5	5	8	8	4	4	2	3	10	8	4	7	8	7	4	4	5	5	 5.1
Rooms that can change size on demand - like movable partitions.	3	5	6	6	3	8	4	1	4	6	5	6	6	2	9	8	2	4	5	7	9	3	5	 5.2
Good environmental conditions - like lighting or temperature control.	6	6	7	4	8	2	4	9	6	5	7	4	2	8	7	7	5	9	6	3	2	7	3	 5.2
Spaces that can be reconfigured for different programs from year to year.	1	7	6	6	6	3	5	3	7	3	9	9	4	5	2	4	1	3	6	5	11	9	5	 5.7
Easy access to utilities - like water, gas, or electrical.	2	5	5	6	5	7	8	7	8	6	8	3	8	1	11	5	10	8	10	6	8	7	7	 6.2
Easy to change furniture.	8	6	4	6	8	6	6	6	6	7	6	8	10	6	10	6	3	7	5	9	7	6	8	 6.3
Location or adjacencies - like convenient access to day care.	7	9	11	8	10	10	9	10	10	9	10	10	1	9	12	9	9	8	9	10	10	11	9	 9.1

We would like to identify the best practices for designing flexible and adaptable spaces as a resource for our colleges.

Can you help us?

On-line Case Studies

Flexible Space Design South Seattle Community College Case Study

Flexible Space Design Bellingham Technical College Case Study

[Case Studies](#)
[\(Bellingham and South Seattle under Flexible and Adaptable Space Design\)](#)

Flexible and Adaptable Space Examples at Columbia Basin

Study and Activity Space



General Student Study and Activity Space



Marketing Classroom and Lab Space



Lecture and Lab Space



Movable Tables, Chairs and White Boards



Rectangular Classrooms, Multiple Setups



Machine Tech Lab



Nuclear Tech/Instrumentation and Controls



Automotive Lab Space



Adjustable Internal Window Shades



Wide Hallways



Your Feedback

Existing Successes

Are there features of existing spaces that make them particularly easy to use?

Existing Problems

Are there problems with existing spaces that make them difficult or unsuitable for use?

Improvements

Are there other features that would make spaces more useful?