



Learning Commons - Strategic Goal: Powerful learning experience

In collaboration with Academic Affairs, specifically the Randall Library, the Information Technology Systems Division (ITSD) is pursuing the development of a new state-of-the-art learning environment. This space, housed on the first floor of Randall Library, will provide UNCW students the opportunity to engage in scholarly activity in almost 12,000 square feet that blends the media rich, collaborative areas with discipline specific/ specialized work areas. In addition to work stations, the Library and ITSD are collaborating to provide comprehensive support for students. This combined approach will provide students with single location access to research, technology and support. Since the Library is already open 24x5, ITSD will be able to extend its technology assistance hours without expending additional costs for security and with minimal staff increases. This one-stop learning commons will truly enhance ITSD's ability to provide a powerful learning experience to all students.

The budget constraints and the need to think creatively about how to provide more with less, was the impetus for the creation of the Learning Commons. It will:

- Provide students with a one-stop location for research, technology and discipline specific software use and support.
- Enhance the use of the Library and extend ITSD support to students.
- Reduce independent non-classroom computer labs by more than half (from 74 to no more than 32).
- Allow the campus to recover the square feet equivalent of an entire classroom building.
- Provide ITSD support in a location where students already frequently gather.