



2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan

The 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan is among the most transformative capital plans in VCU's history and actualizes projects identified in the ONE VCU Master Plan, designed to align university and health system physical spaces with VCU's mission and strategic goals. These projects will facilitate innovative transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary achievements, allow us to grow our life-enhancing research, provide innovative teaching and learning spaces to prepare students for a new economy, increase enrollment and persistence, enhance the patient experience, support community partnerships, and bring us together as one VCU to serve our students and patients as never before. Projects in the plan are prioritized by need, and, due to the density of VCU's urban campus, some projects in earlier phases must be complete or underway before projects in later phases can begin. VCU's Board of Visitors approves a Six-Year Capital Plan every two years.

A center for contemporary dental education & care

VCU is home to the Commonwealth's only dental school and is the only facility in the state offering complete multidisciplinary care. The current School of Dentistry buildings are beyond their useful life, do not meet educational or patient care needs, and have significant accessibility issues and deferred maintenance estimated in excess of \$75M. When the school turns away emergency care patients due to lack of adequate space, it leads to expensive and preventable emergency room visits and loss of student educational opportunities. The proposed **VCU Dentistry Center** will provide state-of-the-art equipment and technology serving more than 500 students as well as maximize care for more than 100,000 patients from across the Commonwealth, including underserved populations. It brings together general and specialty clinics, multiple cutting-edge academic laboratories, and associated contemporary support spaces – aligning with modern practices in dental education, enhancing patient care, advancing the academic (non-sponsored) research mission, improving faculty and student recruitment, and allowing for increased enrollment.

Research & innovation

There is a critical need for research space on VCU's campuses. As a R1 institution with more than \$405M in sponsored research funding (an increase of 49% in the past five years), our research is growing fast among Virginia universities. Sanger Hall, our largest facility where research takes place, is well beyond its useful life, requires frequent emergency repairs, and offers no room for growth. Without **modern research space**, we run the risk of shutting down labs as well as losing talent and research funding.

VCU now ranks among the top 50 public research universities in the United States according to The National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development Survey (2021), and was recently named among the top 30 most innovative public universities by U.S. News and World Report. These rankings distinguish VCU as a vibrant public research university where researchers, educators, practitioners and entrepreneurs innovate together to improve lives and address societal challenges such as life-saving and life-altering improvements in human health, healthcare, the environment, education and more.

Classrooms, labs & common spaces

With on-campus space at a premium, new classrooms, labs and common spaces are mission-critical for VCU. The **Interdisciplinary Classroom and Laboratory Building** will provide modern interdisciplinary classrooms and class laboratory spaces, including innovative “hyflex” capabilities that allow faculty to seamlessly address both in-person and remote students in new and engaging ways. Once constructed, classes and labs taking place in VCU’s Temple Building and Oliver Hall will relocate to the new site, making it possible to demolish, renovate and repurpose older campus buildings and spaces and make way for campus green space.

Student commons & iconic green

A top recruitment driver and often a prospective student’s first impression, a new **Student Commons** will serve as the epicenter of student life, wellness, community engagement and learning outside of the classroom. The new facility will replace the existing, undersized Student Commons. Our ONE VCU Master Plan process also reaffirmed that student retention and satisfaction are interconnected with green space and includes an **iconic green** that will provide much-desired open space for passive recreation and serve as the nexus of programmatic synergies.

Student housing

Updated **Honors Housing** along Grace Street will offer much-needed residential housing as well as active ground-floor retail and gathering spaces that will further build upon activity along the campus “main street.” **Johnson Hall renovations** and, eventually, **housing on the Academic Medical Center Campus** will significantly improve housing capacity for undergraduate students. Students who live in campus-managed housing have higher retention and graduation rates and grades than students who do not. Even one year in campus-managed housing has positive impacts on retention and graduation. Coupled with iconic green spaces and front doors, housing and retail will strengthen the feeling of VCU as a welcoming and safe home for students.

School of Pharmacy

The VCU School of Pharmacy is the only public school of pharmacy in the Commonwealth and ranks in the top 20 of schools of pharmacy nationwide as reported by U.S. News and World Report. The school’s facilities were recently cited during their 2022 accreditation visit for challenges associated with didactic teaching and experiential lab space. Moreover, School of Pharmacy faculty, staff and students are located in three separate buildings, hampering co-location and collaboration. A new **School of Pharmacy building** would enhance recruitment by matching or surpassing facilities associated with neighboring peer institutions, further research excellence in drug discovery, and support enrollment growth as the school looks to create a new undergraduate degree program.

Athletics

For VCU’s NCAA Division I teams who bring home A-10 conference titles year after year, an off-campus **VCU Athletics Village** will offer new sports fields and facilities, including outdoor track facilities and practice fields, a tennis center, soccer stadium, and an indoor field house. This plan returns on-campus real estate to serve academic and student needs, reduces travel and increases practice times for teams, and offers new opportunities for community impact through youth programming. During the ONE VCU Master Plan process, VCU Athletics conducted a planning study and determined that a new site, off the main-campus footprint, would also address the need for more, consolidated space and the need for space upgrades. VCU Athletics currently falls below its peer average for sport and recreation space, with approximately a quarter of existing facilities in need of major renovation.

Front doors & streetscapes

Front doors play an important role for an urban campus. For VCU, they serve as identifiable campus markers and provide a clear sense of arrival to campus without separating us from our wonderful city. **Front Doors** include VCU letter signage as well as landscape features and intersection improvements that slow vehicular traffic and alert pedestrians. VCU continues to work in partnership with the City of Richmond to improve pedestrian safety.