

Learning Commons – Supplemental Information

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Project Description:

In alignment with Grossmont College's strategic plan, the goal of the Learning Commons is to provide an exceptional learning environment in the Learning and Technology Resource Center (LTRC). This project is also a reflection of the College's passion for, and focus on, equity and student success. We are mindful of the unique needs of an increasingly diverse student demographic, and the Learning Commons is designed to be a welcoming place for all students.

As outlined in our July 2019 Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER), the Learning Commons is designed to transform LTRC spaces for enhanced collaboration among students and faculty. Moreover, it is aimed to support Grossmont College's strategic goals of Engagement and Retention by providing resources that enhance student success.

Grossmont College established a Learning Commons workgroup in January 2019, and during the spring 2019 semester, the workgroup conducted nine focus groups with a total of 53 students, staff, and faculty to determine the types of spaces that would best meet these goals. The workgroup used the results of the focus groups as a basis for further campus dialogue as it worked to develop and design the attached Learning Commons concept.

How this project affects students and how many will be directly affected:

The Learning Commons will better integrate the library and learning support services while improving student engagement within the existing facilities. For example, the space will better enable students to engage with faculty and staff face-to-face. In addition, this project will also include space for student leadership development programs, as well as additional structured learning opportunities. Hundreds of students will be directly affected every day by the Learning Commons, and any student who enters the library or tech mall will be affected. The Learning Commons will be student-centered and dedicated to providing spaces and opportunities that promote student access, collaboration, and achievement.

List how this project has been planned for:

The Learning Commons aligns with Grossmont College's strategic plan, including the College's priorities related to Engagement and Retention. In addition, this project was discussed in the ISER, which was submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in support of our application for reaffirmation of accreditation.

List the other departments, programs, or services that may be impacted by this project:

This project will positively impact students, faculty, and staff in a variety of departments across Academic Affairs and Student Services. For example, it will have a positive impact on Tutoring and Learning Assistance, which affects students in English, Math, ESL, and many other departments. It will also have a positive impact for students who utilize the Open Computer Lab in the Tech Mall, as well as students with disabilities who utilize the Assistive Technology Center. The Learning Commons will also be offering welcoming and engaging spaces for Grossmont athletes, as well as students who participate in College clubs and organizations.