

INSTITUTION	CAMPUS
Washington State University	Pullman, WA
PROJECT TITLE	
WSU VCEA Phase 2 Pre-Design	

2023-25 Request	\$500,000
Scoring Type:	Predesign
Class Type:	Programmatic
Project Phase:	Predesign
Gross Square Footage:	TBD
Institutional Priority:	#11

Agency Summary

This is also known as the project summary or recommendation summary (RecSum) text. Provide a brief, clear and concise description of the project, including the problem or opportunity and how the proposed project addresses it. The agency summary should be no more than two or three sentences.

Washington State University requests \$500,000 in the 2025-27 capital budget for the predesign and programming of the next phase of the Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture’s (VCEA) modernization plan for the Engineering sector of the Pullman campus.

Project Description

Describe the proposed project. Provide answers to the following questions, which will inform decision makers about the proposed project.

- 1. Identify the problem or opportunity addressed. Why is the request a priority? This narrative should identify unserved/underserved people or communities, operating budget savings, public safety improvements or other backup necessary to understand the need for the request. For preservation projects, it is helpful to include information about the current condition of the facility or system.**

Recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and researchers to the engineering programs at WSU are negatively impacted by the age and condition of the facilities in the engineering sector of the Pullman campus. Dana Hall, Sloan Hall, Engineering Lab Building (ELB), and Wegner Hall were built in 1949, 1958, 1947 and 1942 respectively, averaging 75 years old. Each of these facilities have a Comparable Framework Study score of 5 – Marginal Functionality. These facilities are not energy efficient and maintaining and operating facilities from this era is expensive. These buildings have small, individualized laboratory spaces with limited visibility, antiquated fume hoods and air handling systems, and they lack appropriate ADA accessibility. Only Wegner has a fire sprinkler system.

The construction of Schweitzer Engineering Hall, which is currently underway is the first in the effort to modernize the facilities in the engineering sector. The predesign requested will analyze the appropriate next steps and will look at options for consolidating programs in modernized facilities. Renovation or new construction and possible demolition may allow for improved space optimization by co-locating disciplines to encourage collaboration and increase faculty and student retention.

Currently the college's engineering and computer science enrollment exceeds the capacity of existing facilities. Total graduate and undergraduate degree production has doubled in the past decade. The availability of required coursework for engineering and computer science majors is limited by a lack of adequate classroom space.

- 2. What will the request produce or construct (i.e., predesign or design of a building, construction of additional space, etc.)? When will the project start and be completed? Identify whether the project can be phased, and if so, which phase is included in the request. Please provide detailed cost backup.**

This proposed project will produce a predesign document to inform next steps in the modernization of the engineering sector. Implementation of the recommended path forward would be phased in the future biennia with design followed by possible renovation or demolition and new construction. The ultimate result is to provide modern, flexible, safe environments for teaching and research in the engineering sector of the WSU Pullman campus.

- 3. How would the request address the problem or opportunity identified in question 1? What would be the result of not taking action?**

The proposed predesign would explore the merits of improving existing facilities, would analyze which facilities merit renovation or would be better demolished, and would consider how best to locate programs within them in order to optimize space while also encouraging collaboration and learning. Without this predesign, the college will not have a clear road map of the renovation, space optimization and modernization necessary to improve recruitment and retention and to provide top quality engineering course work.

- 4. What alternatives were explored? Why was the recommended alternative chosen? Be prepared to provide detailed cost backup. If this project has an associated predesign, please summarize the alternatives the predesign considered.**

The proposed predesign is intended to explore alternatives to provide a recommendation for either new construction or a renovation of existing facilities.

- 5. Which clientele would be impacted by the budget request? Where and how many units would be added, people or communities served, etc.**

The proposed project will impact faculty, staff, and students in the following programs: Computer Science, Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Chemical and Biological Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering and the interdisciplinary programs of data science, biomedical engineering, and materials science. Ultimately, the predesign will directly impact more than 75% of the faculty, staff, and students within VCEA Pullman. No additional units or majors are expected to be added but the resulting modernization could allow the college to increase enrollment in existing programs.

- 6. Does this project or program leverage non-state funding? If yes, how much by source? If the other funding source requires cost share, also include the minimum state (or other) share of project cost allowable and the supporting citation or documentation.**

The predesign request does not include donor funding for this phase, but the implementation of the program recommendations will include a commitment from the college to secure funding from

alumni and donors. VCEA has demonstrated with the Schweitzer Engineering Hall project the possibilities of funding partnerships with state capital and philanthropy.

- 7. Describe how this project supports the agency's strategic master plan or would improve agency performance. Reference feasibility studies, master plans, space programming and other analyses as appropriate.**

This proposed project is in alignment with and supports WSU's continued commitment to reinvestment in existing facilities and infrastructure while also advancing programmatic priorities. It is included in the university's 10-year capital plan and Facility Development Plan which are both focused on identifying and prioritizing capital projects that balance stewardship and renewal within a framework for responsible growth. These plans identify important legacy facilities and prioritize space optimization and the renovation of existing facilities.

The proposed predesign will consider the goals of VCEA which are to promote both general and interdisciplinary research, to improve undergraduate and graduate student retention, to promote "work-ready, day one" hands-on-learning activities, to reduce the total cost of operations, and to promote technology-transfer of VCEA research developments and enhance outreach success.

- 8. Does this decision package include funding for any Information Technology related costs including hardware, software (to include cloud-based services), contracts or staff? If the answer is yes, you will be prompted to attach a complete IT addendum. (See Chapter 10 of the operating budget instructions for additional requirements.)**

Not applicable. This request does not include any Information Technology related costs.

- 9. If the project is linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, describe the impacts on the Action Agenda, including expenditure and FTE detail. See Chapter 12 Puget Sound Recovery) in the 2021-23 Operating Budget Instructions.**

Not applicable. This proposed project is not linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

- 10. How does this project contribute to meeting the greenhouse gas emissions limits established in RCW 70A.45.50, Clean Buildings performance standards in RCW 19.27A.210, or other statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution and/or improve energy efficiency? Please elaborate.**

This proposed project is included in the university's Facility Development Plan which incorporates the university priorities of energy efficiency improvement, carbon reduction and water savings. This project will contribute directly to a reduction in the deferred maintenance backlog through either infrastructure improvements, significant renovation, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing facilities.

Planning efforts for this proposal will include meeting the state requirements for energy performance, greenhouse gas reductions and the Clean Building Act.

- 11. How is your proposal impacting equity in the state? Which communities are impacted by this proposal? Include both demographic and geographic communities. How are disparities in communities impacted?**

As a land grant college, WSU was founded to champion underserved populations. WSU continues to address this objective with a statewide system of six campuses and satellite locations, as well as

financial aid packaging designed to reach underserved and diverse populations. One-third of WSU's student body is made up of students of color and one-third are first-generation college students.

VCEA serves a highly diverse population of students. In 2023, 37% of undergraduate students were students of color, 25% were low income, 33% were first-gen, and 87% were from the state of Washington. Over the past five years, there has been a significant growth in the number of non-majority students (in all categories) studying in and graduating from the college. Research demonstrates that the extra-curricular programming provided by the college (through student clubs, maker space, undergraduate research, and other activities) have improved the outcomes for diverse students. The proposed predesign would further support these programs and their positive impact on closing the opportunity gap for students. Local studies align well with published research findings that document that non-majority students (women, students of color, low income, first gen, etc.) expect to become a vibrant member of their academic community.

- 12. Is this project eligible for Direct Pay? If the answer is yes, you must include this project to the list of direct pay projects and information for submittal (see Chapter 1.7 of the capital budget instructions for additional instructions).**

Not applicable. The proposed predesign project is not eligible for Direct Pay. Future construction may be eligible pending design decisions surrounding renewable energy.

- 13. Is there additional information you would like decision makers to know when evaluating this request?**

WSU, like many universities throughout the country, has a significant deferred maintenance backlog and is striving to improve student enrollment and retention, faculty recruitment and retention, and research growth through programmatic improvements. The capital needs of the university are significant. However, WSU recognizes the limit to funds available in any given biennium and works diligently to prioritize needs and respectfully make reasonable requests for funding.

The college has been successful in generating financial interest from alumni and business partners in their campaign for facilities modernization. The proposed predesign will help to continue their relationships with prospective donors.

- 14. Reappropriation: if the project was originally funded prior to the 2021-23 biennium, describe the project and each subproject, including the original appropriation year, status of the project and an explanation why a reappropriation is needed.**

Not applicable. This proposed project was not originally funded prior to the 2021-23 biennium.

- 15. If the project is linked to the Governor's Salmon Strategy provide an explanation of how the budget request relates to a salmon strategy action, is urgent in the coming biennium to advance salmon recovery, is aligned with a federally approved salmon recovery plan, and/or advances a known tribal priority.**

Not applicable. This proposed project is not linked to the Governor's Salmon Strategy.

- 16. In the agency summary, include the statement, “Related to implementing the Governor’s Salmon Strategy.” See Chapter 14 in the 2025-27 operating budget instructions for more information. (Note: This question is not in CBS but does need a response if applicable).**

Not applicable. This proposed project is not linked to the Governor’s Salmon Strategy.