

Program Summary:

Designed to bring five science departments together, this transformative new building is modeled to use only 25% of the energy of a typical lab building.

Program Statement:

This higher education science building represents a transformative step in science education, research, academic collaboration, and high-performance campus design. Spanning 142,000 SF over four stories, the building brings together five departments under one roof for the first time, creating a new home for the College of Science and a more connected academic community.

Conceived as both a physical and academic crossroads, the building strengthens connections across a new section of campus while making the work of science more visible and accessible. Research laboratories, teaching labs, classrooms, offices, data visualization labs, and a 250-seat active learning auditorium are organized around shared collaboration and social spaces that encourage interaction across disciplines. Transparency supports a “science on display” approach, allowing students, faculty, and visitors to see discovery in action without disrupting focused work.

At the architectural scale, the design draws from patterns found in nature and scientific inquiry, translating the rhythm of Louisiana’s tree canopies into depth, layering, and variation.

Modeled to use only 25% of the energy of a typical laboratory building while saving approximately \$2.5 million in capital costs, the project challenges the assumption that advanced STEM facilities must come with higher costs, higher energy use, and greater long-term environmental impact. By rethinking ventilation, distinguishing between research and teaching labs, using an air cascade strategy, and pairing these systems with a tight, well-insulated, moderately glazed envelope, the building lowers energy demand, reduces operating costs, and directs more project value toward students, faculty, and research.

A35.01

Building Area: (sf)
148,000 SF

Cost per Square Foot:
\$595 / SF

Construction Cost
\$88M

Date of Completion:
2026



A35.02

Spanning 142,000 SF over four stories, the building brings together five departments—Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology & Geophysics, Mathematics, and Physics & Astronomy—under one roof for the first time, creating a new home for the College of Science and a more connected academic community.

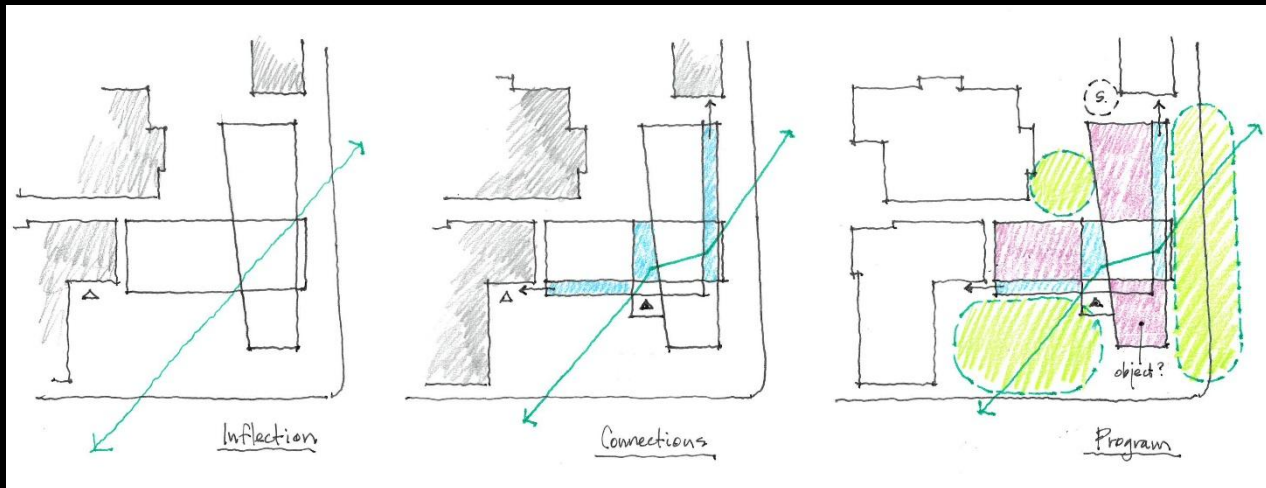
The building responds directly to the College of Science's broader strategic priorities: supporting continued enrollment growth, expanding capacity for foundational science education, strengthening research infrastructure, and creating the modern facilities needed to recruit and retain high-quality faculty and researchers



A35.03

Conceived as both a physical and academic crossroads, the building strengthens connections across the university's new section of campus while making the work of science more visible and accessible.

Research laboratories, teaching labs, classrooms, offices, data visualization labs, and a 250-seat active learning auditorium are organized around shared collaboration and social spaces that encourage interaction across disciplines.





- 1 RENOVA TE**
food science building
- 2 NEW CONSTRUCTION**
new loading dock for food science building
- 3 EQUIPMENT YARD EXPANSION**
potential location for dairy science ice bank and/or generator. final location tbd.

- 4 DEMOLISH**
dairy science building, adjacent site features. fill to grade
- 5 FUTURE CONSTRUCTION**
approximate limits of new building and landscaping

A35.04

The project's success is rooted in a strategic campus planning effort that began with the site's identification in a campus master plan from 2017.

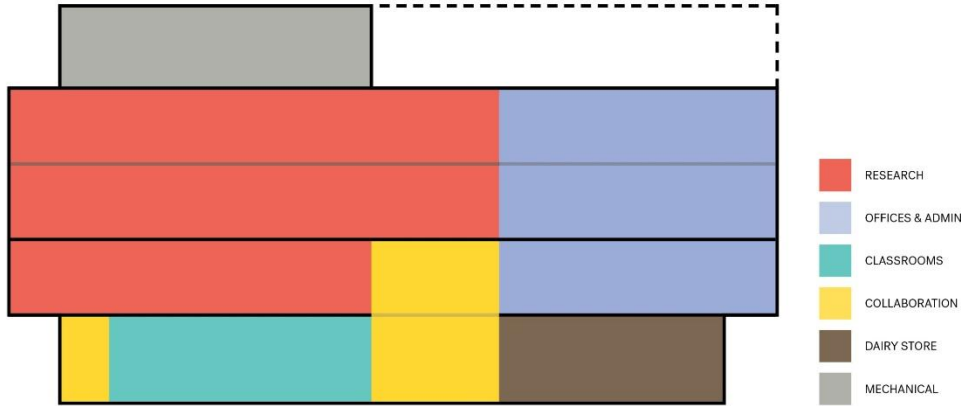
Located between the historic quad, existing science and engineering buildings, and the future central library and learning commons, the site was positioned to become a new interdisciplinary hub.

To make room for the new building, the project included demolition of the existing dairy science facility and relocation of the beloved dairy store into a renovated nearby building, improving its visibility and creating a stronger public connection to the Food Science program. across disciplines.

A35.05

The program is organized to balance productivity with connection. Research labs, teaching spaces, offices, and student collaboration areas are arranged to support focused academic work while encouraging informal interaction across disciplines.

This approach elevates the program from a collection of specialized spaces to a shared environment where a collection of students, faculty, and researchers intermix and exchange ideas.





A35.06

Designed to support more than 250 students at a time, the first-floor active learning auditorium provides a flexible setting for large-format teaching while still supporting interaction and engagement. The raked auditorium steps down every two rows, following the gentle slope of the site. Because every two rows are set at the same level, a lecture style format class can easily shift into small group breakout sessions.

Accessibility is treated as a central design driver rather than an add-on. A continuous side ramp allows movement through the room to be integrated into the seating layout, supporting inclusive access while preserving the auditorium's





A35.07

Located on the first floor, the data visualization lab supports new ways of seeing, interpreting, and communicating scientific information. The lab is designed for small-group instruction, collaborative analysis, and the translation of complex data into shared understanding.

Students and faculty can move easily between focused digital work and informal discussion, creating opportunities for data-driven inquiry to become part of a broader collaborative exchange across disciplines.

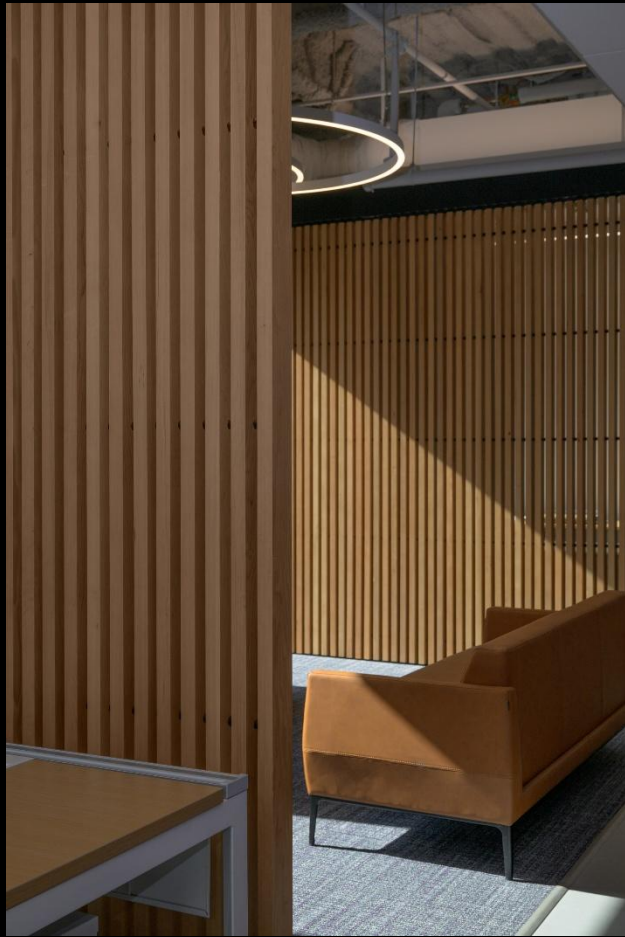
The large-format screens are strategically placed to be visible upon approach to the building, supporting the “science on display” goal for the building. When not being used for classes, they provide an opportunity for the building to showcase the work of the College to visitors and passers-by.



A35.08

The interior architecture is purposefully clean and restrained, allowing the activity, research, and study occurring in the building to be the focus.





A35.09

The building communicates the energy of scientific discovery while preserving the safety, performance, and concentration that laboratory environments require.

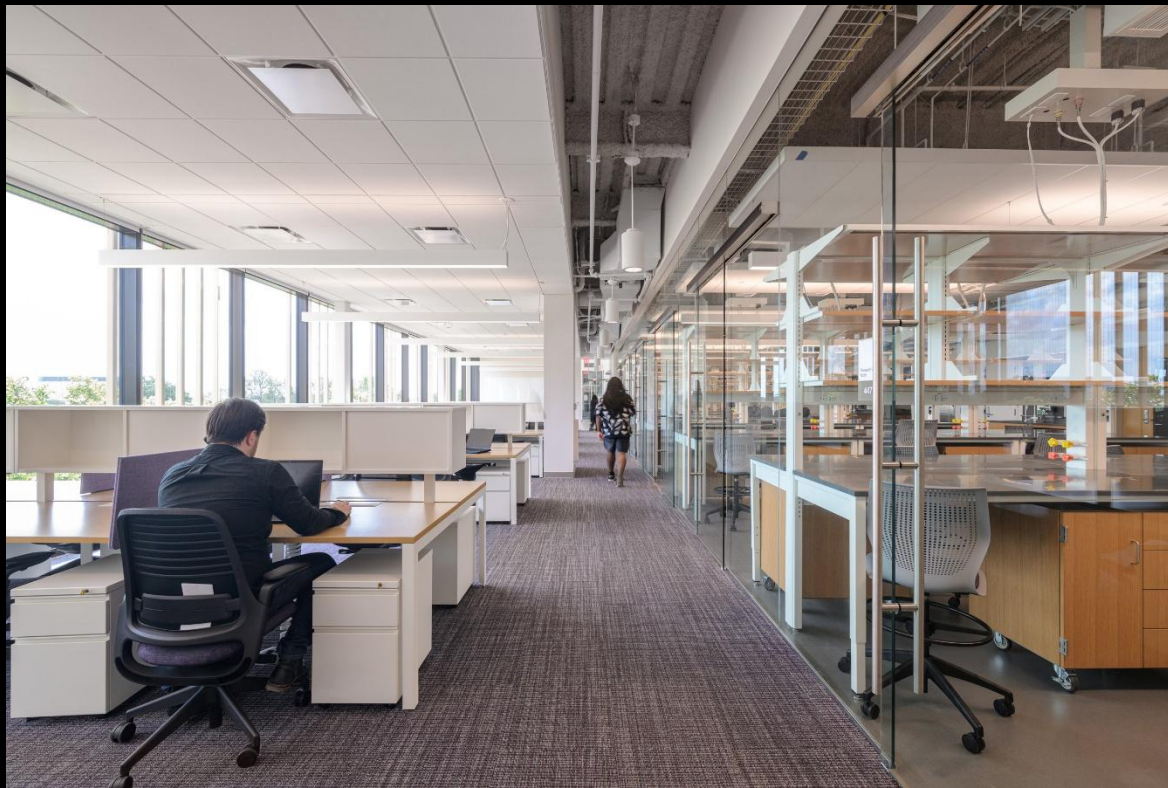
The building's organization reinforces this idea by placing shared learning and discovery spaces along key circulation paths and exterior-facing edges.



A35.10

The administrative areas and Dean's suite support the leadership, advising, and operational needs of the College of Science while staying connected to the building's open, interdisciplinary character.

Daylight, campus views, warm wood detailing, open shelving, and carefully placed transparency help balance privacy with accessibility, creating spaces that feel professional, welcoming, and connected to the daily life of teaching, research, and student collaboration.



A35.11

The research environments within the Interdisciplinary Science Building are designed to support advanced scientific inquiry while encouraging collaboration across disciplines. The Research laboratory's "ballroom" layout style allows for flexible growth and collaboration between research groups. Dedicated Write-Up areas are partitioned from the infrastructure-heavy laboratory bench areas, optimizing systems performance.

Flexibility is embedded throughout the laboratory planning. Durable surfaces, chemical-resistant materials, integrated storage, and adaptable bench configurations allow the labs to support intensive daily use while remaining responsive to evolving research needs, equipment, and technology. The lab strategy also balances technical performance with occupant experience.



A35.12

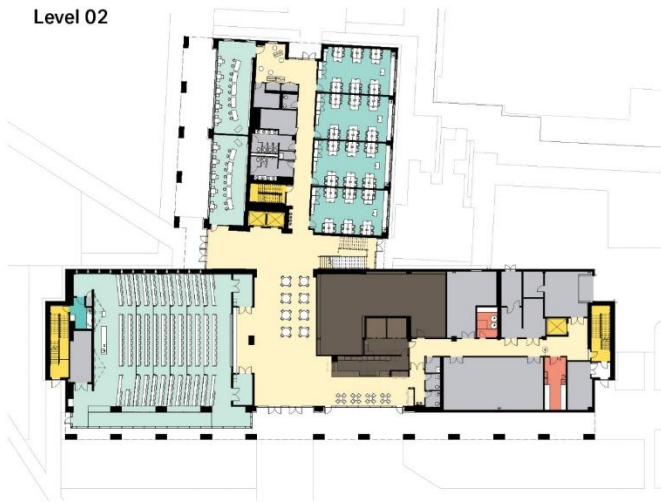
Floor Plans



Level 02



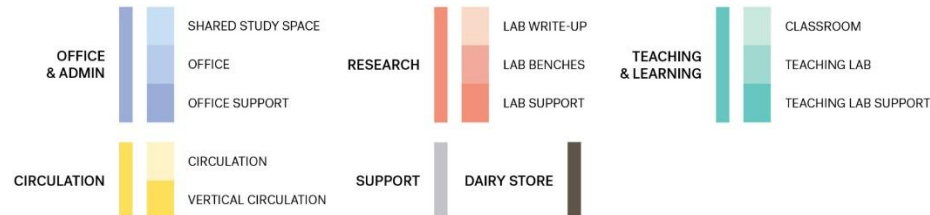
Level 04



Level 01



Level 03



A35.13

Modeled to use only 25% of the energy of a typical laboratory building while saving approximately \$2.5 million in capital costs, this science building challenges the assumption that advanced science facilities must come with higher costs, higher energy use, and greater long-term environmental impact.

The strategy began by rethinking one of the biggest drivers of laboratory energy use: ventilation. Rather than treating every lab space the same, the design distinguishes between flexible research labs and more predictable undergraduate teaching labs, allowing systems to be tailored to actual use. The building's organization further supports an air cascade strategy, allowing conditioned air from lower-airflow spaces to be reused as part of the make-up air strategy for higher-airflow lab areas.

Paired with a tight, well-insulated, moderately glazed envelope, these strategies create a safer, smarter, and more efficient science building that lowers energy demand, reduces operating costs, and directs more project value toward students, faculty, and research.

