

Faculty Perspectives on Redesigned Learning Spaces at Mason

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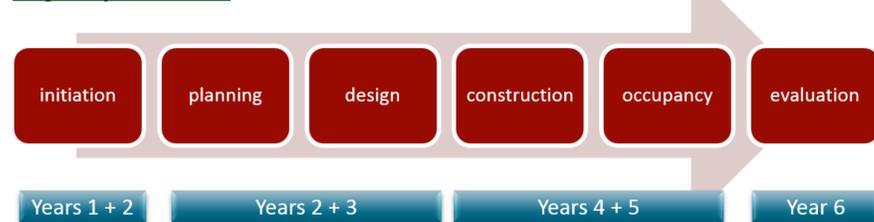


What is an Active Learning Classroom (ALC)?

Mason is reimagining learning spaces on our campuses to foster active and collaborative student learning. This commitment is part of our strategic plan goals for innovative learning and supporting teaching and scholarship excellence. While we currently have 12 classrooms intentionally designed to support active learning, both the Peterson Health Sciences Building and the Robinson rebuild offer significant opportunities for increasing the number of these learning spaces. As part of this initiative we have created an iterative design and implementation process that leverages feedback from faculty and students teaching and learning in these spaces. This poster highlights preliminary findings about faculty satisfaction, perceptions of student engagement, and types of learning experiences based on the faculty surveys from the 2015-2016 academic year.

Iterative Design Process

Large Project Timeline



Small Project Timeline



Methods

An online survey was sent to all faculty teaching in each of eleven ALCs at the end of fall 2015 and spring 2016. In total, 120 faculty completed the survey in fall, and 125 faculty completed the survey in spring, yielding a response rate of 61% and 69%, respectively. The findings are based on data from both semesters.

Examples of Redesigned Learning Spaces at Mason



Exploratory Hall L-102, Active Learning with Technology Classroom (Capacity 72 seats)



Robinson B106 (Capacity 36 seats)



Innovation 333 (Capacity 24 seats)



Innovation 336 (Capacity 24 seats)

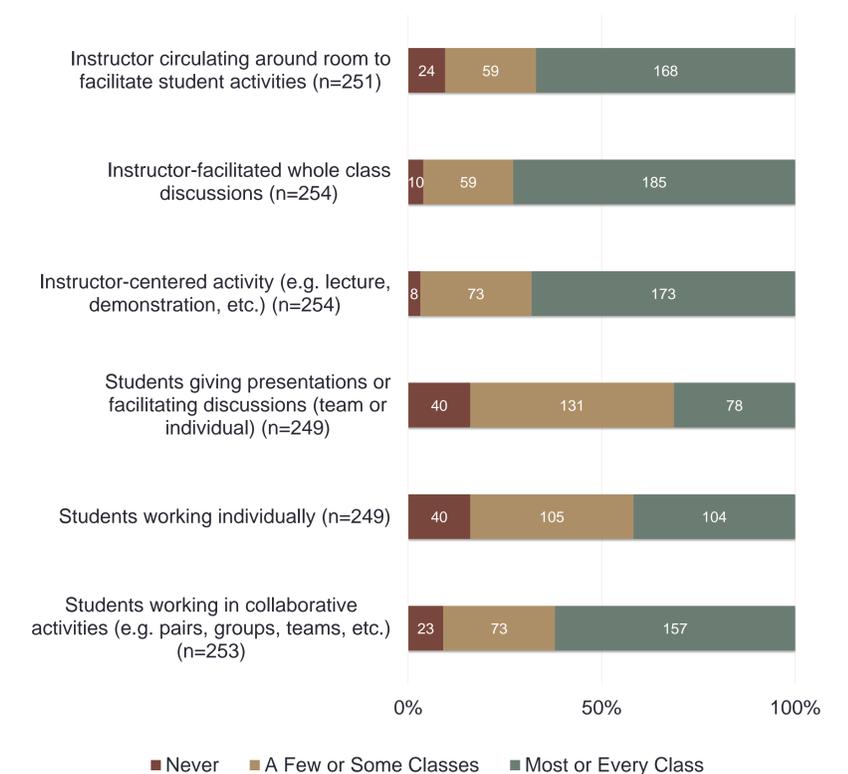


Innovation 323 (Capacity 24 seats)

Findings

- 86% of faculty respondents would “definitely” or “probably” teach a class in an ALC again
 - 44% reported that student engagement was higher in the ALC than in a regular classroom
 - 20% reported that student attendance was higher in the ALC than in a regular classroom
 - 69% of the faculty in Innovation Hall reported using the informal learning space or common area at least once to meet with student
- Most faculty used the ALCs in multiple ways throughout the semester to create active and collaborative learning environments.

Figure 1. Reported Frequency of Use of In-Class Activities in the ALC



Learning Spaces on Mason’s Horizon

- Petersen Family Health Sciences Building: 8 university classrooms
- Robinson Hall Planning: ~30 university classrooms

Interested in teaching in Mason’s Active Learning with Technology, or ALT, classroom?

Fall 2016 Requests for Proposal are **due October 13th**
Information at: <http://tinyurl.com/masonalt>

For more information about Learning Environments at Mason, see <http://learningenvironments.gmu.edu/>

Future Plans and Directions

The Learning Environments Assessment Group, CTFE, and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment will continue our collaboration to support faculty engagement and success in our ALCs.

We will continue:

- Providing educational development and support for teaching
- Assessing the faculty and student experience
- Using assessment results to inform campus planning for new and revitalized classrooms and learning spaces