Learning Spaces at Mason: Where we've been & where we're going

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Where we've been

Active Learning Classrooms (ALCs) at Mason

Mason continues to reimagine learning spaces on our campuses to **foster increased student engagement** through active and collaborative learning. This commitment is part of our strategic plan goals for innovative learning and supporting teaching and scholarship excellence.

With the addition of eight new Active Learning Classrooms (ALCs) in Peterson Hall in Spring 2018 and one in Buchanan Hall in Fall 2019, Mason now has **20 classrooms intentionally designed to support active learning**. The new Core Campus building will offer 27 additional ALCs. As part of this initiative we have created an iterative design process that leverages feedback from faculty and students teaching and learning in these spaces.

Research Methods

This poster highlights findings about faculty experiences teaching in Mason's ALCs. Near the end of each semester from Fall 2015 through Spring 2019, online surveys were sent to all faculty teaching in one of Mason's designated ALCs. In total, these data represent **responses from 971 faculty** from across the years; each term, 120-164 unique faculty responded; response rates for the survey administrations ranged from 53% to 69%. The findings presented here are based on compiled data from all semesters (except Fall 2017), collected and analyzed by the Learning Environments Assessment Group (LEAG) at Mason.
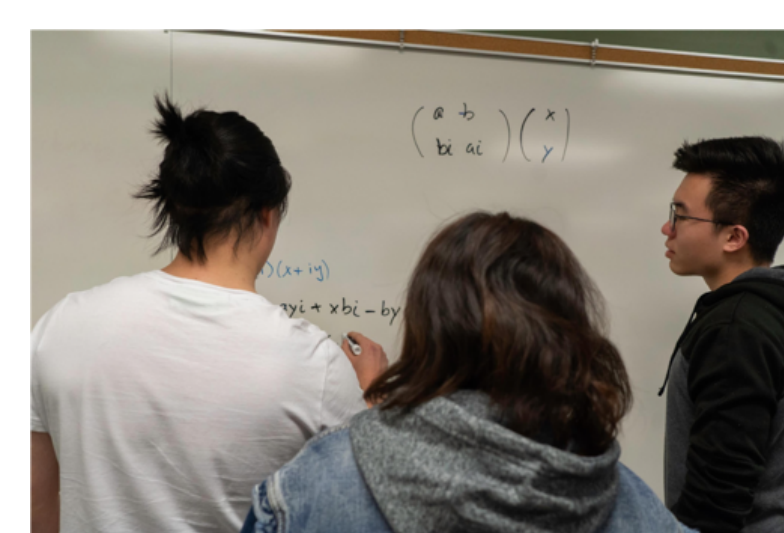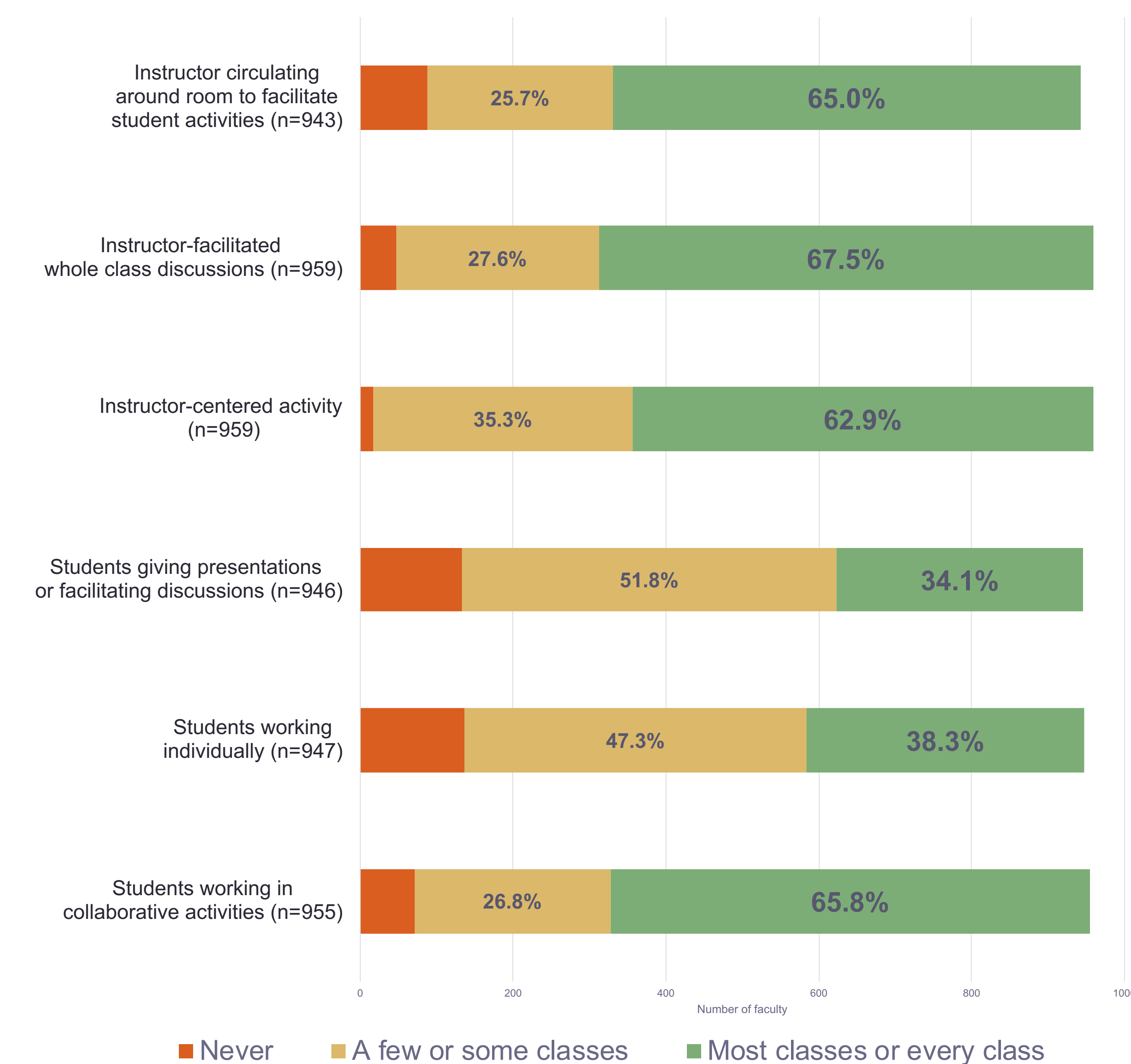

What we know

Instructors see how students benefit from ALCs

- **More participation: 24%** of instructors reported that student attendance was higher in the ALC than in a regular classroom (n=971)
- **More engagement: 47%** of instructors reported that student engagement was higher in the ALC than in a regular classroom (n=971)
- **More variety:** Most faculty used the ALCs in multiple ways throughout the semester to create active and collaborative learning environments.
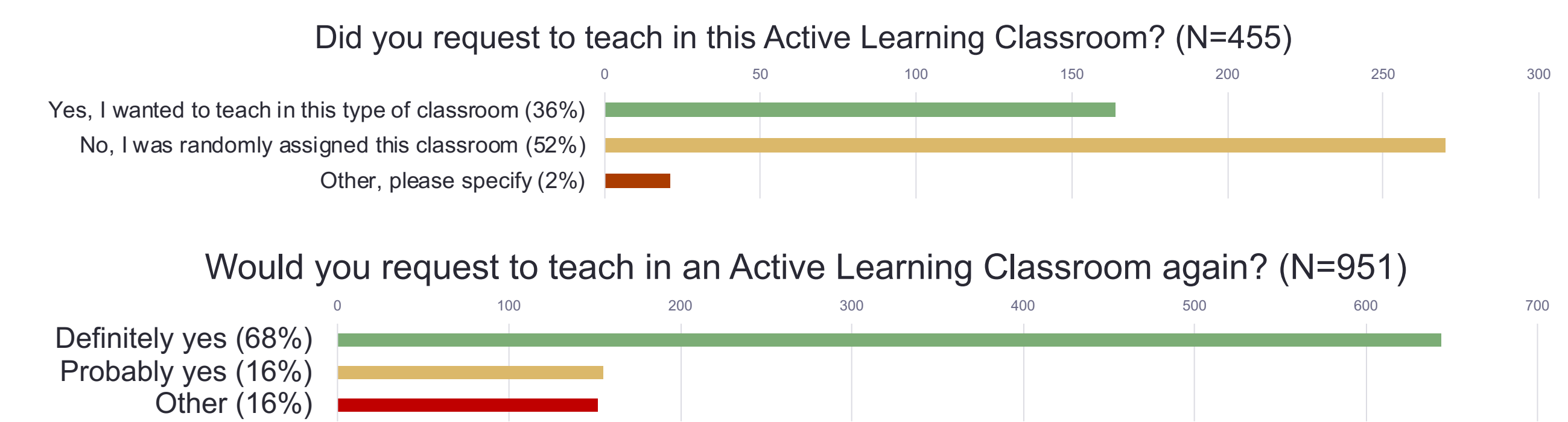
Instructors use ALCs for a wide-range of activities

Activity	Never	A few or some classes	Most classes or every class
Instructor circulating around room to facilitate student activities (n=943)		25.7%	65.0%
Instructor-facilitated whole class discussions (n=959)		27.6%	67.5%
Instructor-centered activity (n=959)		35.3%	62.9%
Students giving presentations or facilitating discussions (n=946)		51.8%	34.1%
Students working individually (n=947)		47.3%	38.3%
Students working in collaborative activities (n=955)		26.8%	65.8%

Where we're going
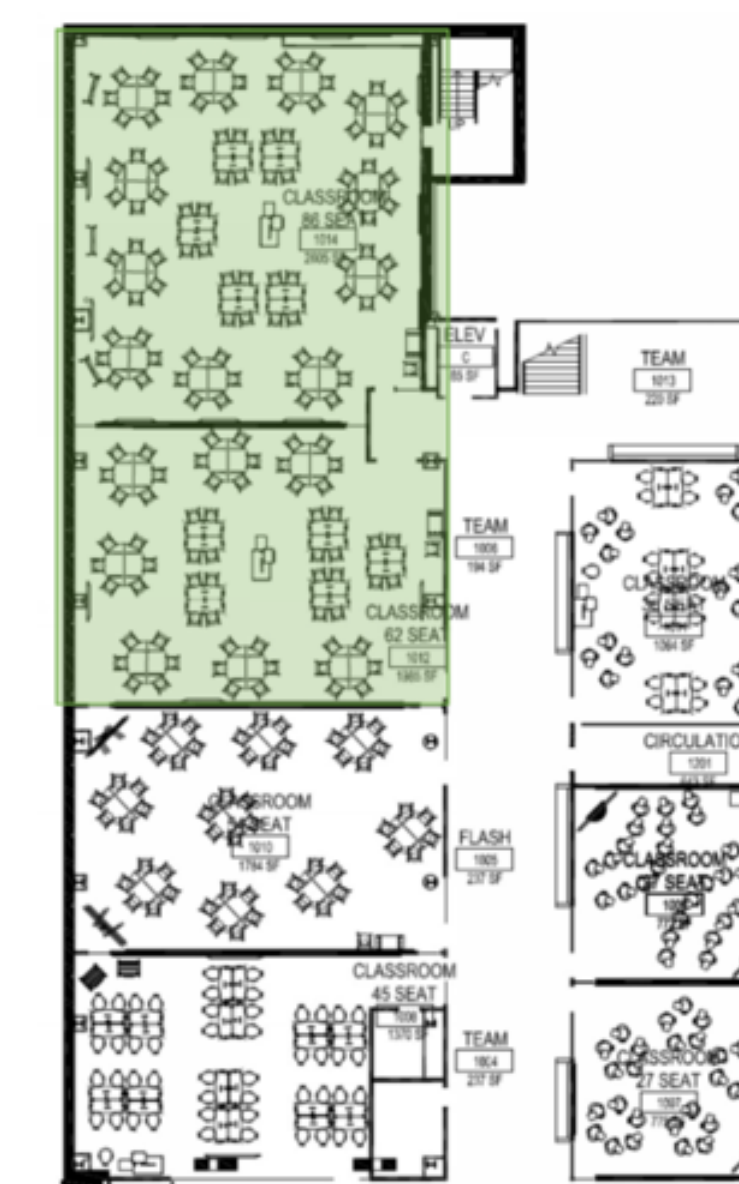
Instructors want to teach more in our ALCs

In recent surveys we found that 36% of faculty originally requested their ALC. Over the years, though, **84% of faculty would probably or definitely request an ALC in the future.**

Did you request to teach in this Active Learning Classroom? (N=455)
- Yes, I wanted to teach in this type of classroom (36%)
- No, I was randomly assigned this classroom (52%)
- Other, please specify (2%)

Would you request to teach in an Active Learning Classroom again? (N=951)
- Definitely yes (68%)
- Probably yes (16%)
- Other (16%)

Mason is providing more ALCs

Fairfax Campus: Buchanan Hall 023
Renovated for Fall 2019
- 60-person classroom with moveable furniture, wrap-around white boards, desk-based white boards, wireless projection, and multiple screens.
- Fall 2019: Join our Faculty Learning Community for Large ALCs.

Fairfax Campus: Core Campus Building
Opening 2021
- 27 new university classrooms, from smaller 24-seat classrooms to larger 72-, 90-, and 120-seat classrooms, all designed to support active learning and student interaction.
- Coming in 2020: Join Stearns Center workshops on teaching in ALCs and get certified to teach in large (>55 students) ALCs.

Science & Technology Campus: Bull Run Hall Addition
Renovations Targeted for Fall 2023
- Three relocated classrooms to be upgraded to ALCs.
- One new 70-seat ALC to be created.

Arlington Campus
- New ALCs planned for original building replacement project.
- Extended videoconferencing opportunities planned for current rooms as they are updated.

Learn About Your Classroom
Classroom Guide @ Stearns Center
Track the classroom type, specific technologies, and furnishings of your current room—and get some teaching tips.

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

Request an ALC
NEW! CourseLeaf Now Supports ALC Requests
Tell your unit scheduler that you *prefer an Active Learning Classroom*—or see other classroom types at the Registrar's Classroom Descriptions & Features page.