

Project Summary

VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES

Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine (DU COM) is committed to improving lives in its community. The College recognizes the need to both recruit the right students and faculty and to help contribute well-trained primary care physicians to the Pittsburgh area and to the profession nationally. At DU students of the new program of Osteopathic Medicine are part of both the University and Pittsburgh health care communities and beyond. DU recognizes this, and is committed to making students feel valued and cared for as whole human beings as well as active contributors within these larger settings. The training DU medical students will receive will prepare them to manage the uncertainty of the medical landscape, while also equipping them with the compassion needed to succeed and thrive. The program's students and faculty will be presented with opportunities for multi-disciplinary engagement with other students on campus including Physician Assistant, Nursing, Pharmacy, and other health sciences programs. These collaborations will support the institution's goals: to progress healthcare delivery as an integrated practice and improve the health and well-being of the immediate populations at hand.

As the keystone for the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the COM Building will provide a place where its students, faculty and staff will learn, work and create together in pursuit of their shared goals. These five "Big Ideas" will guide the development of the project:

1) SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEARNERS WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY AND EXEMPLARY TEACHING SPACES.

Technology is revolutionizing healthcare, and the learning landscape must also evolve. Since the practice of medicine and technology will continue to rapidly change, the learning and workspaces in the building must equip students and faculty for the new educational landscape with high-caliber classrooms that accommodate active team-based learning (TBU and inter-professional case-based learning).

At the crux of the COM's purpose is to serve the community and assert its function as an active contributor to the University whole and local Pittsburgh population.

The new building is a resource hub that invites all surrounding students, faculty, researchers, practitioners and visitors. All are welcome to engage, contribute and learn within the facility walls as collaborative discourse forms the next generation of care.

2) LEVERAGE EXISTING FACILITIES ON CAMPUS TO ENCOURAGE CAMPUS-WIDE INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATION ACROSS HEALTH SCIENCES DISCIPLINES.

One of the strengths of a campus that offers multiple health science disciplines is the opportunity for the cross-pollination of perspectives in the academic setting. Duquesne is a geographically tight-knit campus and students are already used to moving around campus throughout the day for classes and commitments.

3) ESTABLISH A STRONG IDENTITY FOR THE NEW BUILDING AND ITS ROLE IN THE PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY WITH SIGNATURE SPACES.

While the building is intended to be interdisciplinary, it plays a critical role in establishing the COM as a feature to be celebrated at DU and in Pittsburgh. Positioned at the entrance to DU on Forbes Avenue the new building will act as a gateway to campus. This building will be a signature building for Duquesne and the city of Pittsburgh. It will significantly enhance the visibility of Duquesne on an regional and national scale.

The new building will:

- Utilize materials that are warm, welcoming, and make a good first impression.
- Provide generous pre-function space at the street level for College and community events.
- Provide leading-edge, ubiquitous technology for simulation, visualization, and innovation.

4) PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT WITH SPACES THAT VALUE THE WHOLE PERSON.

Since preventive healthcare is grounded in a healthy environment the building should: Ensure wellness as it relates to the building's air quality, natural light, access to public stair, etc.

5) RESPOND TO THE BUILDING'S UNIQUE URBAN CONTEXT BY CREATING MEANINGFUL AND SAFE OUTDOOR SPACE.

The positioning of the new building provides a welcoming entryway onto Forbes Avenue. From the Power Center pedestrian bridge, students will have a bird's eye view of the courtyard and entryway at the streetscape.

The project will be a catalyst for the Forbes Avenue pedestrian-based connector linking Duquesne University to the Uptown neighborhood as part of the Eco-Innovation District. The most critical design features include not just appropriately-scaled sidewalks, but a generous plaza that brings a sense of innovation and sustainability to the urban environment.

The building peels back from Forbes Avenue generating a soft curving lawn, forming sprawling public space along the otherwise dense urban edge of the site.

Key site features include:

- Active and transparent south facade will provide a well lit street edge, providing safety at night.
- Engaging corner of Forbes and Magee with open space and responding to nearby UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse to create a new gateway.
- Locating service and loading at the basement level from the Watson Avenue edge of the site, where the elevation is lower.
- Providing a building that acknowledges campus material and massing vernacular, but gives nod to future developments along Forbes Ave.
- Considering the presence of the new building from the street and adjacent buildings by concealing mechanical space on the roof level.