

## Business School Facilities: Innovative, Efficient, and Practical

It wasn't long ago that business courses were held in campus arts and science buildings. Let's face it, business students and faculty were second rate. But, that all changed when business courses became more than just bookkeeping and administration. Classes evolved into full programs and have become so popular that business needed its own building apart from the other disciplines.

The first business schools weren't the most attractive structures. They often consisted of plain cement walls and floors with little room for faculty offices and student study areas. However, throughout the years business schools have come a long way in terms of their physical features. Today, business schools are recycling large amounts of waste, conserving energy, developing unique floor plans, and are truly becoming a pleasure to be in. In many cases, the business school is one of the nicest buildings on campus. For example, last year, Ithaca College's School of Business opened its brand new building, the Dorothy D. and Roy H. Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise. The new facility holds LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification, which is the highest level of recognition granted by the U.S. Green Building Council. Other examples include business schools with areas for organic compost, dual-flushing toilets, photovoltaic roof panels, triple-paned windows, air-cleaning plants, and even LED lighting systems.

In terms of practical space, the Fox School of Business at Temple University has case rooms, breakout rooms, interview rooms, faculty collaboration spaces, and a student lounge. With these types of facilities, students spend more time on campus studying, have better access to faculty, and can really concentrate on what is important—learning.

At AACSB, we receive a wealth of questions from business schools that want to benchmark or learn what they can do to improve the functionality and sustainability of their facility. In order to help schools plan for facility improvements, AACSB has created a new online resource center dedicated to tracking business school buildings and their improvements. The resource center includes links to institutions with virtual campus tours, featured business school facilities, and resources that explain the different types of designs and environmentally-friendly practices that can be implemented. For more information on these schools or to have your school included on the list, email [colin@aacsb.edu](mailto:colin@aacsb.edu).

[Visit the B-School Facilities Resource Center](#)



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