

Guiding Principles for Campus Master Planning at Vassar

1. The overriding consideration in the development of the campus over time should be the critical role of facilities in supporting and promoting the College's educational mission as described in the official *Mission Statement of the College*. Thus, the programmatic needs of the College must always be primary in planning.
2. The campus should reflect and embody Vassar's commitment to excellence in all things, including state-of-the-art facilities.
3. Main Building remains the historic and functional heart of campus and Main Gate is the primary entrance to the campus. Care should be taken to maintain and enhance the strong initial impression of the campus as one enters through Main Gate and approaches Main.
4. Campus planning and facility development should recognize values shared by members of the Vassar Community regarding historic preservation, sustainability, accessibility, and the aesthetic integrity of facilities and outdoor spaces.
 - a. The heritage of Main Building and the Maria Mitchell Observatory, as National Historic Landmarks, should be preserved.
 - b. Campus history should be explicitly considered in decisions concerning future development.
 - c. Distinctive examples of architecture should be respected in the subsequent renovation of facilities.
 - d. Planning for renovations and new construction should incorporate standards for environmental preservation and energy conservation. Standards for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) should be explicitly considered as construction and renovation projects are developed.
 - e. Planning for renovations and new construction should also incorporate standards for accessibility for all members of the Vassar community and visitors. Standards for Universal Design should be explicitly considered as construction and renovation projects are developed.
 - f. The ecological impact of all campus projects, including parking lots, sidewalks, renovations and new construction should be explicitly considered in the planning process.
5. Programmatic considerations that are important in campus master planning include:
 - a. Clustering academic departments and other programs to foster the intellectual life of the College.
 - b. Integrating academic and residential life in the residence halls, including the Mary Conover Mellon House Fellows program.
 - c. Ensuring the availability of faculty housing in apartments and individual homes near the campus in order to support an intellectual community of students and faculty.
 - d. Balancing traditional use and evolving needs through a process that ensures the equitable distribution of space across programs and services.
6. Considerations of access and safety are important factors in Campus Master Planning and include

- a. Maintaining a campus that is accessible to a largely pedestrian community.
 - b. Ensuring the safety and security of residents, employees and visitors.
7. Campus planning should be well coordinated with the local community, the region, and the state through effective lines of communication with officials and members of the community. Campus planning should encourage appropriate connection between the College and the community of Arlington and with the surrounding Poughkeepsie area, especially in the design of the edges and entrances to the campus.
8. Landscaping plans and the development of outdoor spaces on campus should consider and incorporate
 - a. The role of outdoor spaces for formal and informal gathering.
 - b. Preservation and development of the campus as an Arboretum.
 - c. Parking at the periphery for students and employees.
 - d. Well-developed and lighted pathways for pedestrians.
9. Exterior and interior signage should be consistent in design, clear and helpful to members of the community and visitors, and minimized to the extent possible.
10. Vassar's campus plan should recognize not only the 500 acres in the central campus area, but also
 - a. The multiple purposes served by the 500 acres of the Vassar Farm.
 - b. The public and private use of the College's 15 acres on the Hudson River.
 - c. The commercial properties in the Arlington area held by College Properties, LLC, a subsidiary of the College.