

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
Design Standards

**DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
**&**  
**CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

To help achieve the best results from a design project the Department of Engineering and Planning has developed the following guidelines to assist teams in understanding current University standards for building construction and equipment. This document is fluid and is continually being updated and refined. The products and comments listed below are to be used unless unique project circumstances require substitution or the team feels a substitution is in the best interest of the University.

**1. DESIGN PHILOSOPHY**

A designer must provide the expertise and resources necessary to help meet both current and future facility needs of the University. This is accomplished by providing expertise in the necessary disciplines of campus planning, design, and construction to provide an attractive, functional, and safe facility for the University community. The goal of any project is to meet the needs of the end user while designing a facility that will help achieve Northern Michigan University's vision.

*Northern Michigan University promotes an active environment to foster strong minds and bodies, inspires innovation and inclusion through community engagement, and develops leaders capable of local and global impact.*

To achieve this, the project team must understand not only the immediate program goals but also of the history of planning and architecture on the campus, the goals and objectives of the current campus master plan, and context of the project being undertaken. When specifying systems and/or equipment, the total life cycle costs should be determined and evaluated as compared to only considering initial costs as their impact on the environment.

**2. CODE COMPLIANCE**

NMU designs all projects in compliance with the following building codes: 2000 Michigan Building Code, 2000 Michigan Mechanical Code, 2000 Michigan Plumbing Code, 2000 Michigan Electric Code, BOCA International, American With Disabilities (Barrier Free), NFPA and the Sedimentation Control Act.

Reviews are conducted by The Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services Office of Fire Safety and the Bureau of Construction Codes for all classroom and dormitories projects. All other University projects are only submitted to the Bureau of Construction Code. Projects containing any type of food service must be shared with the Marquette County Health Department.