UCI | Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation

Active Learning Classroom Scheduling Pilot

Active Learning Classrooms

The effectiveness and growing use of active learning strategies in higher education is leading many institutions to move toward classroom and lecture hall designs that better support in-class interaction, collaboration, and content creation. The features of these Active Learning Classrooms (ALCs) vary, but typically include flexible furniture, multiple writing surfaces, increased space per student, and enhanced technologies such as wireless presentation and shared displays. Three classrooms at UCI are currently recognized as ALCs:
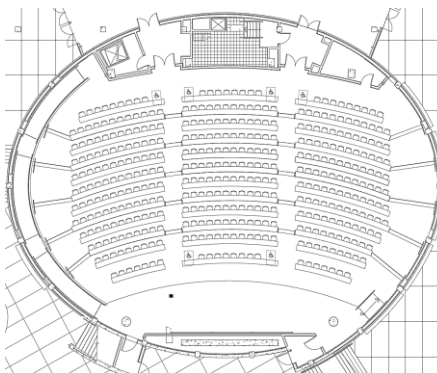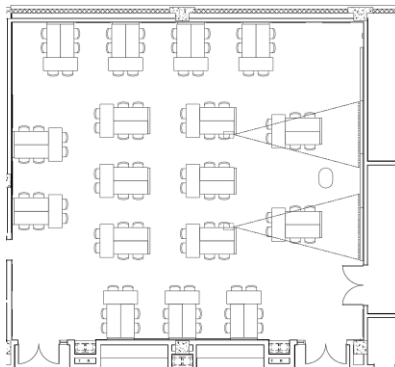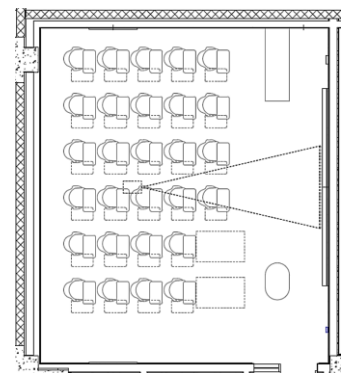

AIRB 1030

PSCB 140

SE 101

Active learning was also at the center of the design of the Anteater Learning Pavilion (ALP). When it opens in Fall 2018, the ALP will dramatically increase the number of ALCs at UCI, including our first active learning lecture halls. Below are a few representative layouts of these spaces:

ALP 400 & 250 Seat Lecture Halls

ALP 60, 80, 100 Seat Classrooms

ALP 30 Seat Classrooms

Priority Scheduling for ALCs

ALCs bring welcomed flexibility and open the door to more creative and engaging in-class activities. To help ensure that all interested faculty can access these spaces and that they are utilized effectively, the campus is piloting a scheduling process that provides *certified* instructors with priority access to ALCs. Recognizing that faculty have a range of experience with active and collaborative learning, DTEI is initially providing two options for certification:

1. *Engaged Learning Institute:* For instructors who have moderate to no experience with implementing active learning strategies, we recommend our Engaged Learning Institute. The institute guides small cohorts of faculty through the development and facilitation of activities that align with their instructional goals, culminating in a classroom observation by DTEI staff.

2. *Retroactive Certification:* Those who already have experience with active and collaborative learning strategies may instead request retroactive certification. Instructors who select this option will be asked to complete the same observation as those who attend the institute, but are expected to already be teaching a course that utilizes these strategies.

When an instructor signs up for either certification option, they are added to the priority scheduling list maintained by DTEI. This list is provided to the Registrar staff, who use it to confirm priority access during the regular room assignment process. As course scheduling typically begins 6 to 9 months prior to the start of the respective term, it is not expected that the certification process will be complete at the time of scheduling.

For more information on ALCs and scheduling, please visit dtei.uci.edu/learning-environments