



Queen's Learning Commons

Vision

The Queen's Learning Commons will be an accessible, collaborative place where people pursue and share ideas. Centrally located in Stauffer Library, this enriched learning environment will bring together tools, resources, and support for the academic experience of Queen's students. It will unite staff who assist students through individual consultation, workshops, peer mentoring, and collaboration, and will include improved support for accessing and exploring digital resources and technology. The Learning Commons will help to draw students to Queen's and provide a distinctive educational experience.

Partnership

The Learning Commons is a collaboration of several university units. Bringing these units together provides not only a single point of contact for students, but also the opportunity to develop new integrated programs.

Library

Provides a full range of information services. Helps students develop information literacy skills needed for academic success and lifelong learning, through course-integrated instruction, collaboration with faculty, one-on-one exploration at a computer and workshops in an electronic classroom. The ability to identify, access and critically evaluate information sources is part of a continuum of research, study, writing and the development of knowledge.

Learning Strategies Development

Provides workshops and consultations on study skills, coaching and referral for academic success, and course-specific study sessions. Relocation from Health, Counselling & Disability Services provides an improved and more centrally located active learning environment.

Special Reader Services

Helps students learn and use adaptive technology, acquire educational materials in alternate formats and use library resources for research. Relocation from Douglas Library provides a more accessible, visible facility.

Writing Centre

Provides workshops and consultations on assignment interpretation, grammar and other aspects of the academic writing process. Relocation provides a more accessible, visible facility.

IT Services

Supports the learning process through access to online resources and help with applications such as learning management software. Service to students will be improved with the joining of hardware/software sales and support (currently in Dupuis Hall) and the support centre in Stauffer Library.

Services

Learning Support

The Learning Commons will provide help with:

- navigating learning resources and services
- developing information literacy skills for finding and evaluating information
- research support in statistical access, analysis and presentation
- saving research products (eg theses, datasets) in QSpace database
- citing sources
- writing (assignment interpretation, grammar, format, etc)
- academic success support, coaching and referral
- study skills (time management, note-taking, exam preparation, learning styles, etc)
- course-specific studying
- learning and using adaptive technology, acquiring educational materials in alternative formats and using library resources for research
- printing, saving, viewing information
- using software to present information
- connecting online (Qcard, wireless, etc)
- using course software
- troubleshooting personal hardware/software (configuring a laptop, virus protection, security software, etc)
- repairing, purchasing, upgrading personal hardware/software

Group and individual study

Students will work together in enclosed, technology-enabled study rooms, and at open tables. Study rooms will be booked using an online form on the Learning Commons website. The comfortable seating situated throughout the facility will encourage quiet conversation and contemplation. Individual study spaces will be plentiful on both floors, as well as on the quieter upper floors of the library.

Learning and research events

The Learning Commons will provide a forum for stimulating academic events, such as interdisciplinary lectures, readings and poster sessions organized by Learning Commons partners and Queen's students and faculty. Requests to hold such events will be made through an online form on the Learning Commons website.

Technology

The Learning Commons will include:

- 150 computers distributed throughout the facility, providing full Web access software and Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Laptops available on 3-hour loan
- Wireless network
- Printing and scanning
- DVD and video viewing
- An electronic classroom with 30 wireless-enabled laptops and a data projector

Technology offerings and policies will evolve in consultation with users.

Further information

A project website will be available in Spring 2005. For further information, contact Martha Whitehead, Associate University Librarian: 533-2516, mw9@post.queensu.ca

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