

## UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

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University of Wisconsin  
**Eau Claire**



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### **Shovel-ready Science and Health Sciences Building ready for completion funding**

Following endorsements from the UW System Board of Regents and Governor Tony Evers, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's new Science and Health Sciences Building is a candidate for \$231.3 million in completion funding in the 2023-25 Wisconsin State Budget. As the budget heads to the legislature, here are some key facts about this transformational building project:

- Will replace UWEC's only science building, Phillips Hall, which was constructed in 1963 when the university had only 3,187 students. Originally designed to educate future high school science teachers, the sixty-year-old Phillips Hall today focuses on laboratory-intensive education and research and serves more than 5,000 unduplicated students annually.
- Phillips Hall is the university's most-expensive, least-efficient building to operate, and is not a candidate for renovation. The Science and Health Sciences Building would only be the second state academic building constructed on the lower campus since the early 1970s.
- The first phase of funding was enumerated in the 2019 state budget, allowing planning for a unified replacement building to move forward. Construction documents will be complete around the time the state budget is finalized, allowing for construction bidding in Fall 2023 and groundbreaking in the early months of 2024. The building would be completed in the summer of 2026 and begin hosting classes that fall.
- Features 10,000 square feet of laboratory space funded by Mayo Clinic Health System and dedicated to expanding their second-in-the-world collaborative agreement with the university, providing research and educational opportunities to UW-Eau Claire students. Mayo's \$13.7 million gift was approved in the 2019 state budget, and they recently renewed their expanded agreement with the university for an additional ten years. The partnership allows students and faculty to collaborate with Mayo's world-class physicians, researchers, and nurses on pressing problems in rural health care delivery.
- Includes a permanent home for UW-Eau Claire's high-performance supercomputing cluster, furnished in part by a gift from Hewlett Packard Enterprise, to drive future research on deep learning, biomedical informatics, and artificial intelligence.
- Features greatly-needed nursing simulation laboratories, which will help UW-Eau Claire sustain a 60% increase in the size of our undergraduate nursing program and meet a critical health care workforce need for Wisconsin.
- Will house UW-Eau Claire's STEM departments, which enroll 37% of the university's majors, provide more than \$400,000 in annual scholarships, and receive an average of \$1.2 million in federal research funding each year. These are high-demand programs—in fact, 12% of the university's students are enrolled in STEM majors created in the past 10 years.
- Will expand the university's capacity to partner with area businesses and organizations on research projects. Over the past ten years, more than 350 organizations from across the state, country, and world have partnered with experts in Phillips Hall. A new facility designed for contemporary scientific research will allow this service to the state to flourish, creating new partnerships and career pathways for graduates.

Please contact Jake Wrasse, Legislative and Community Relations Liaison, with any questions at [jwrasse@uwec.edu](mailto:jwrasse@uwec.edu).