

THE PROJECT

Austin Peay State University (APSU) is one of six universities with- in the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) system and one of Tennessee’s fastest-growing universities. DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) was retained to develop a compre- hensive campus plan that addresses programmatic, facility, and campus needs for the next fifteen years. This project was led by DLM with Lose Design and I.C. Thomasson Associates as sub-consultants to handle site infrastructure and building condition issues.

CHALLENGE

DLM designed the space guidelines for the THEC system of universities, community colleges, and technology centers. With the application of these guidelines, the conclusion was that APSU has insufficient space for current and future aca- demic, student life, and residential needs. The University anticipates an enrollment growth of 2 percent per year for the next 15 years—essentially increasing the enrollment by several thousand students. In addition to the lack of appropriate facilities for this growth, the campus lacks sufficient athletic and recreation play fields, landscaped open spaces, and a consistent and well-designed pedestrian walkway system. The smallest campus in the THEC system, it is very compact and development is restricted due to topography with several karst features. There are significant gaps in pedestrian circulation between the campus core and academic buildings on the east side of campus as well as pedestrian travel between the north side of campus and the core. With a largely commuter student enrollment and continued growth, there is a need for additional parking.

SOLUTION

Through a participatory campus planning and design process and based on the University’s vision and strategic plan, needs were identified, priorities articulated, and consensus reached for a plan for the future. Essentially, to meet THEC facility space standards, the University will need to add the equivalent of 6 to 8 new buildings in the next 15 years. Three concepts guided the planned development of the campus: 1) locate new academic buildings in the core of the campus; 2) expand the pedestrian nature of the core by closing and redesigning several roads as pedestrian walkways and by creating landscaped open spaces on former parking lots; 3) reinforce and enhance the pedestrian movement of students from west to east—from student housing to the expanded academic core and student life resources.

The highest priority projects include expansion of the arts and renovation of the building housing Art and Theater, a University Success Center for academic support services, and a new building for the Health Sciences.

REFERENCE

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ILLUSTRATIVE CAMPUS PLAN

Athletic and residential facilities will also be expanded along with additional play fields. Surface parking lots will be added to the periphery of campus and minimized in the core.

AWARD

American School & University 2013 “Architectural Portfolio” award for Austin Peay State University Campus Plan 2012-2013 for outstanding designs: Campus Master Planning.

UPDATE

Dober Lidsky Mathey was tasked with updating the Master Plan since there was a new president, new administra- tion, new strategic plan, and a significant acquisition of land since the 2013 plan.



2017 CAMPUS PLAN UPDATE

PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE

Arthur J. Lidsky, AICP, FAAAS
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CREATING CAMPUS SOLUTIONS