

Preparation of a Capital Outlay Master Plan for New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) retained Architectural Research Consultants, Incorporated (ARC) to prepare a capital outlay master plan. NMHU is a public state-run comprehensive institution located in Las Vegas, New Mexico, with campus locations in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Farmington.

The plan examines how each campus and its facilities may evolve to address the long-term needs of students, faculty, and staff. The plan seeks to articulate a future development vision that aligns with NMHU’s strategic goals, and provides a capital investment roadmap for 2023–2028 to attain that vision.

The NMHU 2023–2028 Capital Outlay Master Plan adopts and builds upon the goals in NMHU’s Strategic Plan, as well as those established by previous master planning efforts initiated in 2010 and updated in 2017.

ARC worked closely with NMHU stakeholders through interviews, an online survey, and field visits to document the condition of the site and facilities, the impact on enrollment due to economic and demographic factors, and an instructional space utilization analysis.

The major focus of the 2023–2028 capital plan is the renewal of facility infrastructure and targeted renovation. The plan seeks to address aging infrastructure and buildings, deferred maintenance, and the need to attract and retain students, faculty, and staff. The ongoing effort to improve its facilities helps NMHU meet its objectives for state-of-the-art educational delivery.

NMHU’s capital strategy includes five projects with a state request of \$31.47 million.

Client: New Mexico Highlands University

Completion: 2023



Renovated McCaffrey Historic Trolley Building (31)



Douglas Hall (2)

Right: NMHU’s main campus features many historic buildings



Ilfeld Auditorium (12)



Rodgers Administration Building (14)



Kennedy North (9)

Campus	Rooms Scheduled	Stations Available	SOR	RUR	SUR
NMHU@Las Vegas (Main Campus)	89	3,320	26.86%	23.01	6.18
NMHU@Albuquerque	6	169	37.27%	32.61	12.15
NMHU@Rio Rancho	8	214	28.90%	19.4	5.61
All Building Totals	103	3,703	27.57%	23.29	6.42

SOR: Station Occupancy Ratio. Proportion of stations scheduled for use when the room is scheduled. Calculation: $(WSCH / Stations) / (WRH / Classrooms)$

RUR: Room Utilization Rate. Average number of hours per week a group of rooms is scheduled. Calculation: $WRH / Classrooms$

SUR: Station Utilization Rate. Average number of hours per week a station is scheduled. Calculation: $RUR \times SOR$



Above: NMHU Rio Rancho campus

Left: Summary of instructional utilization metrics