

Proposal for a Graduate Education Hub in the Parnassus Library

We propose the development of a new Graduate Education Hub (GradEdHub) in the Kalmanovitz Library at UCSF. This facility would bring students, educators, and administrators from a broad range of departments and programs at UCSF together in a central location. We envision that first-year students who have not yet joined a laboratory would initially use the space as a home base on the Parnassus Campus, but students of all years would come to take advantage of the services and community space that the GradEdHub offers. The Kalmanovitz Library is an ideal host for such a space due to its central location, and to its mission to be a core education facility that promotes connections, inspires learning, and delivers human-centered service. Indeed, with this strategic relocation, the Kalmanovitz Library would increasingly become a nexus of student and faculty life on the Parnassus Heights campus, boosting efficiencies and the frequency of interactions between graduate students, staff, and faculty.

The GradEdHub would consist of (1) an interaction zone and work space for graduate students and educators; (2) group study rooms and conference rooms with streamlined video conferencing to rooms at the Mission Bay campus; and (3) a small number of offices for the graduate program administrative staff. The layout of the GradEdHub would emphasize open and communal spaces and would preserve the distinct architectural and functional character of the building. This plan aligns well with the overarching principles for education space established by the Education Space Policy Task Force by providing flexible education space for learners and educators and allowing for close physical proximity, communication, and community with educators' administrative staff, learners, and other educators. It also helps to address an urgent need for more group study and classroom space on the Parnassus campus.

Who would the GradEdHub serve?

While the most frequent users of the GradEdHub may be those primarily based at Parnassus Heights, such as those in the Graduate Medical Sciences Unit, Oral and Craniofacial Sciences, and the academic graduate programs for health professionals, the GradEdHub would also serve those who are involved in inter-campus programs, such as the Tetrad program. The GradEdHub would also serve those whose programs are based primarily at Mission Bay, but who visit Parnassus for classes, seminars, and meetings with collaborators. All will be welcomed and encouraged to visit the GradEdHub and should benefit from the services provided there. The goal is to foster interactions between students, faculty, administrators and Library staff in a way that reflects the culture of interdisciplinary collaboration at UCSF.

What services would the GradEdHub provide?

Interaction zone: The interaction zone and work space would consist of open desk space, couches, and a kitchen area. Ideally, this space would be available to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, thus providing a safe and comfortable space for students to work at all hours.

Conference rooms and classrooms: All UCSF students currently have access to reservable rooms for group study, and to classrooms with large-screen monitors. However, these are currently oversubscribed because they are available to the entire UCSF community. In addition, the demolition of University Hall will result in the loss of approximately 2000 square feet of

classroom space so demand for the remaining space will be even higher. The GradEdHub will include several new huddle rooms, conference rooms, and high-tech classrooms, which graduate students and their faculty mentors or program administrators will have priority in booking. The huddle rooms could also function as “hotel offices” for faculty and educators traveling to Parnassus from another campus. The conference rooms, with easy video conferencing to Mission Bay, will be convenient for meetings of groups that often span campuses, such as dissertation committee meetings and student-run registered campus organization meetings. The classrooms will be available for graduate courses and student-led activities, such as a movie night or a community symposium. There will also be a large multi-purpose space that can host inter-departmental conferences, classes or other events supporting graduate student education. Open science tools and best practices will be highlighted in the Browsing Room, which will also be available to host other graduate student events.

Graduate administration offices: A relatively small administrative staff supports a wide range of PhD programs at UCSF, and these programs operate across the entire university, representing over 50 departments, divisions and ORUs in three of the four UCSF Schools (Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy). Indeed, the Graduate Medical Sciences Unit (GMU), combined with the Oral and Craniofacial Sciences (OCS) program together include almost half of the MD/PhD and PhD students at UCSF, and approximately two thirds of the students in MD/PhD or PhD programs that are based primarily at the Parnassus Campus. Therefore, including office space for these administrators in the GradEdHub would ensure that it provides service to a broad cross-section of the graduate student population. The layout will occupy approximately 1000 sq. ft. and consist of one office with a closing door for the senior program administrator of each program (three offices total for the GMU and OCS programs), open spaces with cubicles for other program administrative staff, and storage space. If feasible, additional space to allow for inclusion of office space for the administrative staff that support for the Social Sciences PhD programs in the School of Nursing would provide additional benefit by expanding the representation in the GradEdHub to all four schools and all PhD programs based on the Parnassus campus.

Library services: Students visiting the GradEdHub will also have more immediate and convenient access to the technical services that the Library offers, such as the Tech Commons floor offering computer labs with both Windows and Macintosh machines, treadmill and stationary bike stations, printing services, rentable electronic equipment, and professional technology support. Within the GradEdHub, the Library’s Data Science Initiative will have a strong presence, offering computer programming, data management, statistics and bioinformatics classes, as well as various meetups like “Programming and Pizza” and private consultations for students. GradEdHub students will also have convenient access to the Library’s “Living Room” area with comfortable couches and chairs, Caffé Central for food and drink purchases, music rooms, and a Maker’s Lab for relaxing and creative study breaks.

University services: The GradEdHub will provide more a centralized and visible space for advertising student services that are available UCSF-wide, as well as those on the Parnassus campus such as Student Health and Counseling and the Student Success Center located in Millberry Union. In addition, the GradEdHub will be located near the student services offices in Millberry Union.