



FOUNDED: 1887

LOCATED: Raleigh, NC

ENROLLMENT: 34,000+

OFFERING: Bachelor's degrees in 110+ fields; master's in over 110 fields; doctorates in 61 fields; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

"We used the results of the Strategic Scheduling Check-Up as an opportunity to bring together colleagues from across campus—architects, faculty, scheduling officers, and administrators. It provided a framework for discussing institutional behaviors and patterns, and will enable data-driven decisions."

—Holly Swart
Associate Registrar

NC STATE SEEKS STRATEGIC CHANGES TO ABSORB \$80M CUT

Facing an \$80 million budget cut, North Carolina State University began to research and plan for strategic realignment. Holly Swart, associate registrar, partnered with Ad Astra Information Systems on a Strategic Scheduling Check-Up to analyze low-enrollment sections, historical course scheduling and shrinking capacity.

Not only was the budget cut a looming challenge, but the University is scheduled to lose Harrelson Hall, a centrally-located, large classroom building, in 2014. The space capacity management portion of the Check-Up provided architects, schedulers and campus officials with valuable data on how to absorb the loss of the 30 classrooms housed in Harrelson – five with more than 100 seats. They have used the information to understand in which remaining spaces they have capacity to grow and where they have no growth opportunities. The group tasked with taking Harrelson "offline" by 2014 can now begin working on their next steps, such as identifying non-traditional teaching spaces and sharing space with other campus entities.

The course offering study, which looked at historical enrollment trends, tagged 55 low-enrollment courses as potential reduction or elimination candidates. These results will be useful as the campus seeks to identify areas of low productivity. The Division of Enrollment Management has already submitted low-enrollment threshold recommendations that decision makers can use when determining which sections to cancel.

Strategic Scheduling Change on Campus

The registrar's office at NC State is currently making and reviewing recommendations for change based on the Check-Up data. Swart plans to use the analysis to inform their decisions and propose new scheduling policy, including: enforcing existing seat fill ratios per section, minimum hours a room is used each week, and spreading classes throughout the week. While they have always encouraged scheduling within standard meeting patterns, she plans to recommend making this a requirement to reduce instances of non-standard meeting times.

Swart and her colleagues know that significant changes are the only way to continue to offer their students exceptional service and education in the face of this budget cut. "The Strategic Scheduling Check-Up allowed us to begin a conversation about capacity and efficiency," Swart reports. "We had mentioned these things before, but the data was important because it came from an outside observer. Now stakeholders from across campus understand and appreciate the importance of making improvements, which we hope will positively impact course offerings and student class schedules."



