

# Embrace disruption to positively influence student success and operational efficiency



CASE STUDY | DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY



Implement a single-source room utilization and event management solution to enhance cross-departmental collaboration

## Objective: Remedy a dated legacy system to improve event management and room utilization

Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, transitioned from being a late adopter of technology to an early adopter when the institution made the decision to move from Astra Schedule 8 to the Ad Astra Essential Scheduling solution.

With an emphasis on academics first, Registrar Jennifer McClure sought a single solution that could be used for room utilization and events at Dominican University. A holistic and modern course scheduling solution would be necessary to help the private, 4-year Roman Catholic university revamp its current scheduling process to create a conflict-free schedule that would improve the student experience.

At the same time, Hannah Wald, Events Coordinator, was looking for a new events solution that would provide a more modern, user-friendly scheduling option.

“Platforms used in the past weren’t always used to their fullest capacity,” Wald said. “Ad Astra’s Essential Scheduling solution would offer us a more simplified, modern platform with greater control over deadlines and an improved user experience.”

## Solution: Leverage technology to improve collaboration and leverage functionality

Implementing a single source solution for event scheduling and room management would also allow the university to establish a new partnership for creating policy and guidelines to support students and faculty while championing transparency of the work.

McClure turned to longtime partner Ad Astra to help the university improve operational efficiency. Ad Astra’s Essential Scheduling would not only serve the institution as a single-source solution but would also become a catalyst for improving communication and collaboration between departments.



## RESULTS

Improved meeting patterns to **create a conflict-free schedule**



The Sinsinawa Sisters, our original founders, were considered to be brave disruptors and I believe disruption and bold decisions are an important part of our institutional DNA. Social justice is also a thread running throughout our history and I believe we have an obligation to serve our students in a way that meets their needs.

**A like-minded partner like Ad Astra helps us do that.**

**JENNIFER MCCLURE**

Registrar

By leveraging Essential Scheduling to improve meeting patterns, the University expanded the day beyond the hours of 10-2 to alleviate congestion on campus. The work of improving the academic schedule and events scheduling also prompted conversations with parking and dining as the collective sought to better serve its population. This collaboration helped to alleviate parking congestion and provide more dining options when students are on campus.

“By revamping our meeting patterns, we were able to create a conflict-free schedule,” McClure said. “This has allowed us to find the sweet spot that would improve the student and faculty experience.”

### School background

Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, served 3,802 students in the fall semester of 2025 (2,645 Undergraduates and 1,161 Graduate students). The Sinsinawa-Dominican-sponsored institution offers more than 50 undergraduate degrees, more than 25 graduate degrees and two doctoral degrees. The HIS university was founded in 1901 as St. Clara College in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. It was relocated to River Forest, Illinois, and renamed Rosary College in 1922. The institution became Dominican University in 1997. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

### Products in use

+ Academic Scheduling    + Room Scheduling    + Event Scheduling

Connect with an expert at [aais.com](https://www.aais.com) »