

# Modernizing campus event scheduling with a centralized approach

CASE STUDY | DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY



Single-source scheduling improves transparency, workflows, and space utilization

## Challenge: Replace legacy event scheduling software with a modern, user-friendly option

Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, was a campus in flux. Like many higher education institutions, the university was looking for ways to better utilize its spaces for an evolving campus population with unique needs. The long-time Ad Astra partner was using Astra Schedule, a legacy system, but with space at a premium, the private, four-year Roman Catholic university looked to Ad Astra to provide a better scheduling solution.

Hannah Wald, Event Services System Coordinator at Dominican University, also championed a solution that would provide more clarity into the process of event scheduling. Such an approach would provide Dominican's users with a better understanding of the lead time, logistics, and resources needed to successfully execute an event on campus.

“Some of the platforms employed in the past weren't always fully optimized,” Wald said. “There are so many benefits to having an event scheduling solution that provides control over deadlines with a better user experience and a friendly, modern interface.”

## Solution: Implement a single-source solution to address both event scheduling and room management

In August 2025, Dominican University transitioned from Astra Schedule, a legacy system, to Essential Scheduling. The adoption of Essential Scheduling offered Dominican an enhanced way to administer event requests and approvals, share public registrations and calendars, and customize lead times for spaces and partners. The transition from Astra Schedule to Essential Scheduling was also instrumental in helping the university centralize the scheduling process for both event and room management.

With Essential Scheduling, Wald can set permissions for who can request spaces and resources and enable flexible workflows for each user with multiple calendar views. Customized permissions ensure each user can see what they need to see, when they need to see it. The modern interface has also made the requesting process easier, garnering praise from department users who enjoy having more autonomy and flexibility in their planning needs.



**Improved scheduling patterns** create synergies in event planning processes and space optimization





Essential Scheduling makes my job incredibly easy because it gives me more control over the deadlines of when people can go into the platform to request different spaces. It also allows me to look at the workflow of different campus partners, so there is always time to schedule resources correctly.

**HANNAH WALD**

Event Services System Coordinator

“The offerings of Essential Scheduling have been monumental when it comes to users following our policies and deadlines,” Wald said. “Having information and training at their fingertips has resulted in huge improvements in regard to how users follow our event guidelines.”

In addition, transparency of the event scheduling process has provided users with a better understanding of the necessary resources and steps involved in planning events and why or why not a space is available for request. Such efficiencies are proving to be beneficial in regard to improvements in planning processes, space optimization, and collaboration on campus.

“Essential Scheduling has aided our Registrar in academic scheduling that has allowed better space optimization, and the University has seen an alleviation in courses taking nonacademic spaces on campus. It’s early, and there is still work to be done, but we’re moving in the right direction,” Wald said.

### School background

Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, is a Sinsinawa-Dominican-sponsored institution. The university offers more than 50 undergraduate degrees, more than 25 graduate degrees and two doctoral degrees. The HSI 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.

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