

Virginia Commonwealth University 2008-10 Biennial Budget Request

Purpose: Establish a state-of-the-art “training hub” for medical students, residents, physicians, and other healthcare providers serving communities across Virginia.

Medical Education and Clinical Simulation Building, Phase I

- **150,000 gsf of E&G space**
 - *Capacity to train more physicians as demand for medical care increases;*
 - *State-of-the-art simulation center focused on increased patient safety; and*
 - *Small group learning spaces that will improve team-training opportunities across all health professions.*
- **50,000 gsf of research space for Massey Cancer Center**
- **12 floors, 200,000 gsf total**

Project Cost: \$158.6 million
\$70 million GF; \$88.6 million NGF

Proposed Site

*A.D. Williams Site, Corner of 12th
and Marshall Streets, MCV
Campus*

As the only comprehensive academic health center in the state, VCU is uniquely positioned to respond to the state’s changing healthcare needs by:

- **Increasing the physician workforce in a cost-effective manner**
- **Improving medical education with modern instructional techniques**
- **Enhancing physicians’ skills to practice evidence-based medicine**
- **Providing new opportunities for economic development**

By explicitly tying education, training, team-based patient care and the use of simulation to patient safety goals and outcomes, VCU can serve as a resource for healthcare training throughout the state. However, [the new Medical Education and Clinical Simulation Building is critical to meeting this goal.](#)

A.D. Williams must be replaced. Built in the 1930s, the facility has serious deficiencies, including no fire suppression system. The cost of renovating the building is estimated at \$372 per square foot –77% of the cost per square foot of new construction at that location. Even with renovations, A.D. Williams would still not meet VCU’s needs, because it is structurally unsuitable to support the types of educational and clinical simulation space required.

Under the state’s funding conventions for higher education facilities, the proposed project would be eligible to receive \$115 million GF. By leveraging private fund sources, VCU is requesting that the state contribute \$70 million to this project – **reducing the state’s anticipated contribution by \$45 million GF.**

With a new facility, VCU can positively impact the following areas:

- **Access to Healthcare.** A projected shortage in the number of physicians threatens to reduce access to medical care as Virginia's population ages. With the new building, VCU could *increase its enrollments from 730 medical students today to 1,000*. As medical school enrollments increase, the University's goal is to *increase residency slots at the same rate*.
- **Capitalizing on Existing Resources.** *With our existing medical school infrastructure* (e.g., large, well established, basic science and clinical faculty, dedicated teaching hospital and clinics, and active accreditation status), VCU could enroll 1,000 medical students. The School expects to accommodate this growth with projected increases in tuition revenue and anticipated state support for medical education provided through the current base adequacy guidelines.
- **An Integrated Approach to Medical Education.** Today, medical education is disjointed. Students complete two years of classroom instruction followed by two years of clinical training, and typically one to three years (or more) in residency programs before becoming fully licensed. Practicing physicians continue their education through required professional development activities.

VCU is developing a more coordinated approach that will integrate *training across all levels of medical education*. With its strategic location and space design, the new building will accelerate the School of Medicine's ability to create a "continuum of medical education."

- **Improved Quality of Care through Simulation Training.** The growing use of *simulation and standardized patients* has the potential to *increase the quality of patient care and patient outcomes* as students and residents spend time honing their skills in a controlled setting. Advances in simulation also provide new opportunities for the *School of Medicine to partner with the School of Engineering and the Biotech Park* in developing new biomedical devices and medical treatments.
- **Economic Development Opportunities.** Through this initiative, VCU will have the ability to expand *economic development in the Richmond area as well as other Virginia communities*. While the supply of physicians will continue to be an important issue, the geographical distribution of these physicians will be equally important to ensuring that all Virginians have access to quality care. Given *its expertise in establishing a fully-accredited regional campus (Inova-Fairfax)*, VCU is exploring opportunities to *train medical students in high demand areas throughout the state*.

Further, as the use of team-based care (with physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and others training together) increases, VCU recognizes the opportunity to train more mid-level providers for underserved areas. For these communities, the *creation of new jobs and improved healthcare will spark other economic development efforts*.