

Construction

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Western Washington University

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

Western Washington University opened its \$50 million Academic Instructional Center in January on its campus in Bellingham.

The 120,000-square-foot building has two wings joined by a skywalk on the fourth floor. The east wing houses departmental clinics, labs and faculty offices, and the west wing includes classrooms, lecture halls and open spaces for meet-ups.

Academic departments in the building include psychology, and communication sciences and disorders.

Image Slideshow



Photos by Matthew Anderson/WWU [\[enlarge\]](#)

The project was designed with a number of green features, including solar shading, natural ventilation and heat recovery, energy and water efficiency. Excavated materials were used on site, and construction waste was recycled.

The university is seeking a LEED certification for the project.

Owner: Western Washington University, Bellingham

Executive architect: NAC Architecture, Seattle

Design architect: Opsis Architecture, Portland

General contractor: Dawson Construction, Bellingham

Civil engineer: KPFF, Seattle

Mechanical engineer: Stantec, Seattle

Electrical/AV engineer: NAC Engineering, Spokane

Geotechnical engineer: AES, Seattle

Landscape architect: Mayer/Reed, Portland

Lab design consultant: FoilWyatt, Jackson, Miss.

Acoustical consultant: The Greenbusch Group, Seattle

Structural engineer: Coughlin Porter Lundeen, Seattle