

Classroom Technologies Aid Instruction

Video wall capability

One truly advanced feature of the Sorrell Center is video wall capability. The auditoriums can display and manipulate multiple video windows on massive (45 foot by 14 foot) screens using two theater-quality projectors. For instruction, this allows high definition display of anatomical, pathology and medical images. It allows for simultaneous display of an instructor's presentation along with instructional videos and illustrative materials.

Digital signage

Numerous electronic room schedule displays will greet students in the Sorrell Center. Video presentations and general information will be displayed on large (42 inch) panels. Outside classrooms, smaller panels will display room schedules, special announcements and other information for students, faculty and visitors

Recording capabilities

All regular classrooms have in-room recording systems to capture instructor's computer presentations and the instructor's narration for later viewing by students. The system is automated and available minutes after the class is completed. In the clinical skills area, 19 advanced, high-resolution recording systems are available to capture student interaction with standardized patients and programmable patient simulators. One of the auditoriums and three distance education classrooms will have video cameras to record and broadcast presentations to students.

Wide-screens

UNMC has installed wide-screens in most of the classrooms and auditoriums in the Sorrell Center. These screens allow both wide and standard width video to be displayed. The projectors installed in the major classrooms of the Sorrell Center are theater-quality providing high-resolution images that are several levels above any previous systems at UNMC.

Remote management

One major advance UNMC incorporated into the Sorrell Center is the remote management of control systems for the classrooms. Technicians control AV equipment in the classrooms via simple Web interfaces. They can monitor equipment functioning and remotely turn equipment on and off to control power consumption and increase the life-span of critical and advanced equipment such as projectors, equipment in teaching desks and computers. The computer control system allows technicians to apply updates and add software as needed to classroom computers simply by changing one computer system image. When the remaining computers in the building are restarted, they will all have the update or new software in place.

Smartboards

UNMC has long installed Smartboards™ in classrooms across campus, but this is the first building to have Smartboard™ annotation systems in all educational spaces. With the interactive whiteboard, faculty will be able to annotate and highlight instructional presentations and images. Recording devices will capture the instructional materials and annotations for later viewing.

Wireless capabilities

The Sorrell Center is the first building on the UNMC campus to be constructed with wireless networking throughout the building.