

## Peak Classroom and Laboratory Utilization at Ohio's State-Supported Colleges and Universities

**Questions:** At Ohio's state-supported colleges and universities, what is the highest level of classroom and laboratory utilization for scheduled credit class and laboratory time?

**Why look at utilization data on classrooms and laboratories?** A large part of the higher education experience occurs in classrooms and laboratories. While a sufficient number of classrooms and laboratories are needed to serve colleges and universities, unused space is expensive to maintain. Understanding classroom and laboratory utilization levels provides Ohioans an understanding of how state-funded colleges and universities are managing their facilities.

**What is peak usage, and why is it important?** In this report, peak usage is that time of day when the highest number of classes is occurring on a college or university campus. It is necessary that institutions have the appropriate resources to handle their busiest class times to meet their students' needs. Because Ohio's colleges and universities serve a variety of student needs, peak usage may occur at different times during the day depending on the institution. While a university that serves a largely residential population may find that its peak usage occurs around 10:00 a.m., a community college that serves a working population may find peak usage earlier in the morning or in the evening.

- Data for space utilization in this report are drawn from the course section schedules submitted by the public colleges and universities to the Ohio Board of Regents. These data include course schedules for credit activity only provided by the primary institution; that is, for classes that are offered for credit toward a degree. Other kinds of activity happen in classrooms and laboratories in addition to credit activity. This includes continuing education classes, workforce development seminars, study sessions for credit classes, credit instruction offered by other institutions, and student organization meetings. **These other activities are not reflected in the tables below.**
- Laboratory utilization levels will always be significantly lower than classroom utilization levels because of the more specialized nature of laboratories. Some laboratories contain equipment that is specific to a particular discipline, and therefore, the laboratory is only available for certain types of classes. In other cases, laboratories are physically arranged in a manner that makes them undesirable for use for lecture-type instruction.

### State and Sector Peak Utilization Rates

- The average statewide peak level for scheduled classroom utilization is 72% for classroom day use and 60% for classroom evening use. The average peak level for scheduled laboratory utilization is 38% for laboratory day use and 33% for laboratory evening use.

**National Answers:** There are no known comparable national statistics.

**Statewide Answers:** During peak daytime hours statewide, Ohio colleges and universities average 72% classroom utilization and 38% laboratory utilization.

### Statewide Peak Utilization Rates Day and Evening – Fall, 1999

Day (8:00 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.)		Evening (4:00 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.)	
Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization	
Classroom	Laboratories	Classroom	Laboratories
72%	38%	60%	33%

**Sector Answers:** During daytime hours, Ohio's university main campuses, technical colleges, and co-located campuses report the highest classroom utilization rates (74%-76%). During the evening hours, university branch campuses report the highest peak utilization rates (70%).

- The numbers by sector vary between 66% and 76% for classroom day use and between 52% and 70% for classroom evening use. For laboratories, average peak usage varies between 36% and 58% for laboratory day use and between 28% and 44% for laboratory evening use.

**Peak Utilization Rates Day and Evening by Type of Campus – Fall, 1999**

	Day (8:00 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.)		Evening (4:00 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.)	
	Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization	
	Classroom	Laboratories	Classroom	Laboratories
Technical Colleges	76%	58%	52%	44%
Co-Located Campuses	75%	43%	65%	33%
Community Colleges	66%	38%	65%	39%
Branch Campuses	66%	41%	70%	43%
University Main	74%	36%	56%	28%

**Campus Answers:** Space utilization rates, at their peak point, vary greatly by college or university.

- Peak utilization levels vary widely by campus.
  - In the tables below, co-located campus data are displayed in a separate table. Co-located campuses are those campuses where two different institutions share one or more buildings. When two institutions share a single campus, classroom and laboratory scheduling may not necessarily be handled centrally. The information system of the Ohio Board of Regents does not present utilization rates separately for the buildings owned by each campus on co-located campuses.
- Co-located campus classroom day peak usage varies from a high of 88% to a low of 65%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 63% to a low of 35%.
- Community college and technical college classroom day peak usage varies from a high of 94% to a low of 16%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 70% to a low of 20%.
- University branch campus classroom day peak usage varies from a high of 100% to a low of 43%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 74% to a low of 19%.
- University main campus classroom day peak usage varies from a high of 84% to a low of 44%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 63% to a low of 2%.

**Technical Colleges \* – Fall, 1999**

Institution	# Available Rooms		Day (8:00 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.)		Evening (4:00 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.)	
	Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization	
	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs
Hocking Technical College	46	64	76%	58%	52%	44%

\* Except co-located campuses. Co-located campuses are displayed in a separate table.

**Co-located Campuses**

Institution	# Available Rooms		Day (8:00 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.)		Evening (4:00 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.)	
	Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization	
	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs
Belmont Technical College-Ohio University	49	42	71%	45%	55%	24%
Central Ohio Technical College-Ohio State University	40	42	88%	38%	65%	36%
Muskingum Area Technical College-Ohio University	52	49	65%	51%	60%	39%
Ohio State University-Lima Technical College	52	40	77%	35%	62%	30%
Ohio State University-Marion Technical College	23	32	78%	63%	78%	38%
Ohio State University-North Central Technical College	61	87	71%	29%	59%	26%
Stark State College of Technology-Kent State University	70	87	80%	52%	80%	41%

### Community and State Community Colleges – Fall, 1999

Institution	# Available Rooms		Day (8:00 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.)		Evening (4:00 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.)		
			Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization		
	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs	
Cincinnati State Technical & Community College	88	103	61%	37%	60%	29%	
Clark State Community College	58	32	53%	31%	43%	25%	
Columbus State Community College	160	95	74%	35%	86%	50%	
Cuyahoga Community College	Eastern Campus	63	42	54%	31%	57%	26%
	Metro Campus	60	63	70%	44%	58%	27%
	Western Campus	57	54	84%	70%	83%	52%
Edison State Community College	39	32	46%	34%	56%	38%	
Jefferson Community College	18	35	94%	46%	83%	26%	
Lakeland Community College	96	97	67%	30%	67%	45%	
Lorain County Community College	103	106	59%	29%	45%	25%	
Northwest State Community College	25	36	80%	33%	80%	36%	
Owens State Community College	Findlay Campus	23	24	65%	38%	87%	58%
	Toledo Campus	112	92	67%	38%	75%	45%
Rio Grande Community College	48	32	Campus does not report room utilization statistics to Board of Regents				
Sinclair Community College	131	134	82%	44%	68%	46%	
Southern State Community College	Central Campus	28	25	25%	20%	36%	16%
	North Campus	31	3	16%	67%	19%	33%
	South Campus	10	10	50%	50%	30%	20%
Terra State Community College	32	51	72%	29%	75%	45%	
Washington State Community College	25	33	80%	52%	56%	42%	

### University Branch Campuses – Fall, 1999

Institution	# Available Rooms		Day (8:00 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.)		Evening (4:00 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.)		
			Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization		
	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs	
Bowling Green State University	Firelands Campus	19	16	53%	50%	47%	44%
Kent State University	Ashtabula Campus	21	13	57%	23%	76%	23%
	East Liverpool Campus	13	10	69%	50%	77%	40%
	Geauga Campus	10	6	60%	50%	70%	83%
	Salem Campus	14	19	71%	37%	71%	53%
	Trumbull Campus	20	25	85%	36%	100%	44%
	Tuscarawas Campus	14	22	86%	41%	93%	50%
Miami University	Hamilton Campus	35	31	60%	26%	49%	26%
	Middletown Campus	33	30	55%	40%	55%	43%
Ohio State University	Agricultural Technical Institute	11	19	100%	74%	55%	63%
Ohio University	Chillicothe Campus	27	21	59%	19%	74%	24%
	Lancaster Campus	27	12	52%	42%	74%	42%
	Southern Campus	30	6	43%	50%	77%	50%
University of Akron	Wayne Campus	21	13	81%	39%	71%	39%
University of Cincinnati	Clermont Campus	19	11	90%	55%	95%	91%
	Raymond Walters Campus	40	17	83%	41%	83%	41%
Wright State University	Lake Campus	16	8	44%	50%	44%	25%

**University Main Campuses – Fall, 1999**

Institution	# Available Rooms		Day (8:00 a.m. - 3:59 p.m.)		Evening (4:00 p.m. - 7:59 p.m.)	
	Classrooms	Labs	Peak Scheduled Utilization		Peak Scheduled Utilization	
			Classrooms	Labs	Classrooms	Labs
Bowling Green State University	205	162	71%	35%	57%	29%
Central State University	62	64	44%	22%	24%	8%
Cleveland State University	154	52	73%	39%	81%	44%
Kent State University	223	122	77%	47%	52%	34%
Miami University	211	173	73%	25%	46%	16%
Ohio State University	391	174	81%	63%	58%	52%
Ohio University	231	155	76%	42%	51%	33%
Shawnee State University	52	55	48%	2%	39%	2%
University of Akron	208	164	84%	40%	64%	27%
University of Cincinnati	294	125	69%	33%	44%	27%
University of Toledo	192	217	69%	21%	65%	16%
Wright State University	106	81	78%	42%	73%	35%
Youngstown State University	146	158	77%	31%	64%	21%