

## 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 (peak 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 the utilization rate 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. Those include 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 available only 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 68% for classroom day use and 63% for classroom evening use. The average peak level for scheduled laboratory utilization is 41% for laboratory day use and 38% 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 68% classroom utilization and 41% laboratory utilization.

### Statewide Peak Utilization Rates Day and Evening – Fall 2001

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
68%	41%	63%	38%

**Sector Answers:** During daytime hours, Ohio's university main campuses, technical colleges, and co-located campuses report the highest classroom utilization rates (71%-76%). During the evening hours, university branch campuses report the highest classroom peak utilization rates (70%).

- The numbers by sector vary between 62% and 76% for classroom day use and between 42% and 73% for classroom evening use. For laboratories, average peak usage varies between 39% and 62% for laboratory day use and between 31% and 52% for laboratory evening use.

**Peak Utilization Rates Day and Evening by Type of Campus – Fall 2001**

	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%	62%	42%	52%
Co-Located Campuses	74%	47%	63%	37%
Community Colleges	62%	39%	60%	37%
Branch Campuses	68%	40%	73%	43%
University Main	71%	41%	58%	31%

**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 85% to a low of 58%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 56% to a low of 33%.
- Community college and technical college classroom day peak usage varies from a high of 87% to a low of 29%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 64% to a low of 16%.
- University branch campus classroom day peak usage varies from a high of 100% to a low of 40%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 61% to a low of 18%.
- University main campus classroom day peak usage varies from a high of 82% to a low of 56%. Laboratory day peak usage varies from a high of 68% to a low of 24%.

**Technical Colleges \* – Fall 2001**

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
Hocking Technical College	45	66	76%	62%	42%	52%

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

**Co-located Campuses – Fall 2001**

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
Belmont Technical College- Ohio University	48	44	58%	50%	50%	30%
Central Ohio Technical College- Ohio State University	40	32	85%	56%	78%	47%
Muskingum Area Technical College- Ohio University	51	58	65%	45%	51%	31%
Ohio State University- Marion Technical College	28	33	75%	39%	68%	33%
Ohio State University- North Central State College	55	83	69%	33%	51%	28%
Ohio State University- James A. Rhodes State College	46	42	80%	50%	61%	45%
Stark State College of Technology- Kent State University	81	80	83%	54%	83%	43%

**Community and State Community Colleges – Fall 2001**

Institution Name	Campus Name	# 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
Cincinnati State Technical & Community College		104	101	51%	33%	48%	25%
Clark State Community College		56	31	55%	26%	48%	29%
Columbus State Community College		157	109	76%	27%	85%	46%
Cuyahoga Community College	Eastern Campus	57	43	54%	40%	65%	42%
	Metro Campus	61	56	71%	46%	51%	34%
	Western Campus	61	52	87%	64%	75%	44%
Edison State Community College		41	27	51%	52%	56%	63%
Jefferson Community College		22	33	82%	64%	64%	33%
Lakeland Community College		100	100	65%	28%	62%	47%
Lorain County Community College		83	100	63%	29%	52%	24%
Northwest State Community College		28	37	71%	35%	79%	32%
Owens State Community College	Findlay Campus	24	23	71%	30%	83%	48%
	Toledo Campus	112	100	74%	35%	74%	40%
Sinclair Community College		127	128	87%	56%	75%	52%
Southern State Community College	Central Campus	28	25	29%	16%	36%	16%
	Fayette Campus	13	0	31%	NA	31%	NA
	North Campus	15	7	40%	29%	47%	29%
	South Campus	12	12	42%	42%	42%	33%
Terra State Community College		35	50	66%	34%	60%	36%
Washington State Community College		25	34	76%	50%	60%	38%

**University Branch Campuses – Fall 2001**

Institution Name	Campus Name	# 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	Firelands Campus	19	16	53%	44%	53%	44%
Kent State University	Ashtabula Campus	22	17	59%	29%	86%	35%
	East Liverpool Campus	20	21	40%	19%	55%	14%
	Geauga Campus	10	6	70%	50%	100%	83%
	Salem Campus	13	20	85%	45%	85%	40%
	Trumbull Campus	34	52	56%	23%	59%	31%
	Tuscarawas Campus	16	23	75%	44%	81%	48%
Miami University	Hamilton Campus	41	32	59%	28%	51%	25%
Miami University	Middletown Campus	38	21	68%	48%	79%	38%
The Ohio State University	Agricultural Technical Institute	11	23	100%	61%	73%	48%
Ohio University	Chillicothe Campus	26	22	65%	18%	58%	32%
	Lancaster Campus	34	13	56%	31%	65%	31%
	Southern Campus	28	6	54%	33%	79%	33%
University of Akron	Wayne Campus	20	9	90%	56%	80%	56%
University of Cincinnati	Clermont Campus	25	18	88%	50%	84%	72%
	Raymond Walters Campus	37	21	92%	57%	89%	52%
Wright State University	Lake Campus	17	9	53%	44%	65%	56%

**University Main Campuses – Fall 2001**

<i>Institution</i>	# 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	210	145	70%	41%	57%	33%
Central State University	57	46	56%	26%	28%	9%
Cleveland State University	153	56	67%	32%	84%	34%
Kent State University	224	122	69%	45%	50%	39%
Miami University	208	132	82%	36%	60%	20%
The Ohio State University	416	186	81%	68%	56%	46%
Ohio University	243	151	74%	40%	51%	38%
Shawnee State University	49	51	59%	24%	51%	20%
University of Akron	207	126	80%	52%	75%	36%
University of Cincinnati	283	114	74%	40%	47%	31%
University of Toledo	171	51	74%	57%	69%	43%
Wright State University	113	82	67%	44%	66%	39%
Youngstown State University	131	178	75%	32%	60%	17%