



SERVICES

- Post-Occupancy Assessment

CLIENT: RDG
ARCHITECTS

LOCATION:
WATERLOO, IA

DATE: 2024

CLIENT OBJECTIVES

- Refined Grundy Hall's functionality to enhance its role as a dynamic, student-centered environment.
- Highlighted design successes, including cross-program interaction, improved daylight access, and community engagement.
- Identified opportunities to optimize space utilization and align with evolving educational needs.
- Enhanced RDG's POE process with tools for capturing user feedback and analyzing design outcomes.

HAWKEYE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ENRICHING EDUCATION THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN

Hawkeye Community College's Grundy Hall Health Science Center represents a bold step forward in health science education. Redesigned by RDG Planning & Design, the center unites previously scattered class labs and simulation spaces into a centralized, multidisciplinary hub. With features like hospital-like patient rooms and collaborative simulation spaces, the design fosters hands-on, experiential learning, preparing students for health science careers in a cohesive, immersive environment.

To support Hawkeye's vision and RDG's design, PLASTARC conducted a Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) to assess the building's performance and its alignment with user needs. Through leadership interviews, user surveys, and on-site observations, the POE highlighted successes such as improved cross-program interaction, enhanced daylight access, and increased community engagement. The study also identified opportunities to optimize underused spaces and further align the facility with evolving educational goals.

PLASTARC's findings equip RDG and Hawkeye with actionable insights to refine Grundy Hall's functionality, elevating its role as a dynamic, student-centered environment and a premier space for innovation, collaboration, and health science education. The project also enriched RDG's approach to post-occupancy and design evaluations, providing tools to better capture user feedback, analyze design outcomes, and apply these insights to future projects. By integrating Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) into their design process, RDG fosters continuous learning, enhances client relationships, and delivers evidence-based designs that adapt to user needs over time.



"PLASTARC's expertise transformed our approach to POE, providing valuable insights that improved both our project outcomes and future design strategies."

— Michael Houston, Senior Partner, RDG Planning & Design



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Hawkeye Community College

Refining spaces for health science leaders

2024
Academic Sector
Waterloo, IA
Post-Occupancy
Assessment

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Methods

- Conducted **interviews** to analyze RDG’s past projects and improve processes.
- **Analyzed** architectural plans and developed a strategic research approach.
- Conducted **client interviews** to gather testimonials and project insights.
- Designed in-situ **user questionnaires** for real-time occupant feedback.
- Performed **utilization analysis** using observational methods.
- **Synthesized** findings into post-occupancy reports for evidence-based recommendations.



Key Values & Outcomes

- **Refined** Grundy Hall’s functionality to enhance its role as a dynamic, student-centered environment.
- **Highlighted** design successes, including cross-program interaction, improved daylight access, and community engagement.
- **Enhanced** RDG’s POE process with tools for capturing user feedback and analyzing design outcomes.