

Steenbock Renovation Page

Steenbock Library Renovation Update: Active Learning Classrooms, New Study Spaces and Collections Relocation



Exciting New Spaces Coming to Steenbock Memorial Library in Summer/Fall 2026!

We're pleased to announce that **two large active learning classrooms** will be added to the first floor of Steenbock Memorial Library, alongside a modernization and expansion of study spaces and the BioCommons! **The first floor of Steenbock is closed for renovations and will reopen by Fall 2026.**

- **Summer 2026:** Study and non-classroom spaces will reopen
- **Fall 2026:** Classrooms will open

This transformative renovation will include:



- Two large active learning classrooms (each seating 96 people)
- Multi-purpose room (seating 40 people) for active learning classes, events and study space
- Conference room/large study room (seating 12 people)
- Revamped BioCommons spaces for events and study
- Multi-purpose collaborative spaces to connect students and instructors
- A variety of modern study spaces, including study rooms, booths, and collaborative tables
- Convenient power access for your devices throughout the spaces
- A welcoming first floor entry with a new vending area for a quick break.



Elevator Access Update: Steenbock’s public elevator upgrade has almost been completed and is expected to reopen in early September. Elevator access to all open floors will remain available – just follow the signs for directions to the alternate elevator.

Thanks for your patience during this renovation.

Interested in sharing your ideas for how our spaces could meet your needs?

Please share your feedback [here](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

When will the 1st floor be renovated and what will be included in the space?

The 1st floor will remain open through the 2025 spring semester and will close beginning May 19, 2025 for renovation. Study spaces will reopen in June 2026 with the active learning classrooms opening for the Fall semester 2026. This exciting renovation will include:

- Two large active learning classrooms (each seating 96 people)
- Multi-purpose room (seating 40 people) for active learning classes, events and study space

- Conference room/large study room (seating 12 people)
- Revamped BioCommons spaces for events and study
- Multi-purpose collaborative spaces to connect students and instructors
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Where can I find alternative study spaces to the 1st floor?

Alternative study spaces to what is currently on the 1st floor include:

- A variety of study spaces are available on the 2nd-4th floors of Steenbock.
 - 2nd floor: Open study tables and computing, reservable conference room
 - 3rd floor: Open study and individual tables, reservable conference room plus check out the 3 group study cubbies that were moved from 1st floor to 3rd floor
 - 4th floor: Quiet individual and open study table + newly updated and expanded prayer & reflection space
- [Campus libraries](#), including the [Chemistry Information Commons](#), [Computer, Data, and Information Science Library](#), [Social Work Library](#), and [Geology Library](#). You can reserve a library study room [here](#).
- Campus buildings nearby, including the [CALS Student Center](#) (M-F, 7am-8pm) in 25 Agricultural Hall (some 2 person, first-come first served rooms and several 10-40 person reservable rooms)

Will this work be noisy or disruptive?

For the 2025-2026 academic year, it may be noisier than usual during weekdays, 9:00am-5:00pm (quieter evenings/weekends). Earplugs are available at the service desk on the 2nd floor.

Where are the vending machines?

The vending area and microwave are temporarily relocated to the west wall of the 2nd floor.

How can I access the print collections that were relocated in advance of the renovation?

In preparation for these renovations, Steenbock relocated print collections within the building (3rd/4th floors) or to the [Verona Shelving Facility \(VSF\)](#) to allow the 1st floor to be dedicated to [active learning classrooms and other learning spaces](#).

Print books/monographs moved to 3rd/4th floor or Verona Shelving Facility :

- Books that were used or acquired since 2014 or that have been checked out multiple times since 2000 have been moved to Steenbock's 3rd or 4th floor:

- A-TI on 4th floor
- TJ-Z on 3rd floor (including the complete [Cookbook Collection](#)).
- Monographs/books that did not fit the above criteria were moved to VSF.

The Libraries will continue to expand access to e-book content and convert any remaining print journals to online when possible.

Ongoing access to any items that are moved to the Verona Shelving Facility will be available by:

- [Requesting a book or journal volume for checkout at a service desk or for remote delivery](#)
- [Requesting a scan of an article or book chapter](#)
- Using an online equivalent (most journals, some books) found in the [Library Catalog](#)

How will I access the upper floors when the public elevator is being replaced?

Steenbock's public elevator is being replaced with an expected completion in early September. During that time, signs will direct you to our staff elevator so that you can travel between floors, including accessing the Archives on the 4th floor. Should you have any questions please ask the staff at our service desk on the 2nd floor. Both sets of stairs will also continue to be available during this time.

How can I provide feedback?

Use our [Steenbock Library Feedback Form](#). We welcome suggestions and ideas for continued improvement of our spaces.

New Spaces Page of Blog Post

New & Updated Study Spaces – Fall 2025!

Steenbock Memorial Library recently launched a [transformative renovation of its first floor](#) that will add two large active learning classrooms, alongside an exciting update to the study spaces and the BioCommons (open by Fall 2026). This 1st floor is currently closed. For more details on what to expect please view our [updates page](#).

Over the summer, we've made a number of exciting updates to the rest of Steenbock that we wanted to share with you, including:

- The Prayer & Reflection Space has been modernized, expanded and moved to 4th floor
- 3 Group Study Cubbies added to the 3rd floor
- Increased group and individual/quiet study spaces through Steenbock

Prayer & Reflection Space Modernization, Expansion & Move to 4th Floor

The Prayer & Reflection Space has been expanded and has two drop-in "rooms" for meditation, prayer & spiritual connection, and mental health breaks. It has a new location on the fourth floor of Steenbock (see [[floor plan](#)]). This new location has two adjacent spaces with partial wall dividers with a chair, shoe rack, cushions and mats provided.

3 Group Study Cubbies Added to 3rd Floor



If you were used to studying in the 1st floor BioCommons group study cubbies, don't fret! With sustainability in mind, materials from the 1st floor were reused to create three 4-person group study cubbies on the third floor. These spaces have partial wall dividers and are not reserveable.

Increased Group and Individual/Quiet Study Spaces Throughout Steenbock



This summer we continued to expand the amount and types of seating throughout the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors study spaces. Highlights include:

- 3rd floor
 - Booth seating along the east windows with a great view
 - A laptop bar that we're piloting along 2 sides of the 3rd floor atrium walls – [let us know what you think!](#)
 - Additional open study/group tables and soft seating
- 4th floor
 - In addition to the new Prayer & Reflection Space, we've added seating at tables and carrels for individual and quiet study.

We hope you have a great start to the semester and look forward to [hearing from you about how these new spaces meet your needs!](#)

Interested in sharing your ideas for how our spaces could meet your needs?

Please share your feedback [here](#)