

X25 : The Move from “Wish List” Item to “Indispensable” Planning Aid

The Need for Quick, High-Quality Reporting Expedites the Acquisition of X25



Inside

Suffolk University
Boston, Massachusetts

S U F F O L K
U N I V E R S I T Y

Products:

*X25® Space Analysis featuring Real-Time Benchmarking®,
R25® Scheduling System, Schedule25® Bulk Scheduling Optimizer*

Number of Rooms:

70 general classrooms, centrally scheduled

Number of Classes:

About 1800 course sections per semester

Why X25?

“X25 was what we needed and what we wanted; we knew this would work.” – Michael Spooner, Associate Registrar, Information Systems

The Savings:

“X25 was worth the investment.” – Mary Lally, Assistant Dean for Enrollment & Registrar

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Business Profile

Located in the historic heart of Boston, Suffolk University is a private urban university that strives to maintain an academic environment that is both challenging and supportive of students of all ages and backgrounds. Suffolk is proud of its success in retaining and graduating students who both appreciate and exemplify the richness of diversity.

The Suffolk mission to provide quality education at a reasonable cost to a wide variety of students originated with founder Gleason L. Archer. Archer opened the Suffolk School of Law in 1906 in his own parlor, offering night classes to students with day jobs. Fulfilling a

promise to an early benefactor, Archer sought to pass on educational opportunities to those who might otherwise be excluded for reasons of class, race, or religion.

Groomed for careers leading and serving the communities in which they live and work, today's students emerge from their experience at Suffolk with an understanding of what it means to be good neighbors and good citizens of a global society. Their first, immediate lesson derives from attending school in the midst of a dense and complex urban environment.

Challenge

Space is a particularly critical issue on a mid-city campus where schools strive to strike the appropriate balance between meeting the pedagogical and business needs of the university and being considerate of the community at large.

Long before encountering X25, the Registrar's Office at Suffolk struggled with the ongoing crunch for space in its role as centralized scheduler for The College of Arts and Sciences and the Sawyer Business

School. When she and other administrators attended an X25 demonstration, Registrar Mary Lally immediately saw the potential of CollegeNET's space analysis and planning tool. Suffolk already had R25 and Schedule25, and adding X25 to their space management and planning arsenal seemed a logical next step in ensuring the administration's ability to accurately assess and predict space usage and requirements.

X25®

The Process

After its first enthusiastic reception at Suffolk, X25 was placed on a “wish list” of desirable acquisitions, according to Associate Registrar Michael Spooner, “until we had the prospect of a new classroom building and needed to get some quick high-quality reporting done.”

The Office of Government & Community

Affairs needed accurate, timely information to back up a 10-year Institutional Master Plan to be presented in early 2008 to neighborhood associations concerned about the future influence of the university on nearby residents and businesses.

To meet the urgent need, X25 implementation began in September 2007. “Overall the installation and upgrade for X25 was easy,” says Spooner. Analyses were performed and reports prepared to substantiate the Registrar’s perception that they were using their classroom space pretty much to the max. X25 reports and metrics showed room utilization in the range of 90–97 percent was common during peak hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as was seat utilization approaching 90 percent. To replace existing space—when a portion of class activity is moved to Suffolk’s upper campus to ease the impact on residential areas—would clearly require new classrooms

with a capacity commensurate with rooms currently in use on the lower campus.

Spooner’s experience of preparing X25 results for wider presentation was positive: “The files and reports are easily manipulated and shared among as many or as few users as you choose.... X25 has given us the ability to explain the classrooms in lay terms to other university constituents. It’s hard to explain what’s really going on with space without being able to let others view it.”

Benefits

According to Associate Registrar Spooner, X25 offers:

- Clear, “intuitive” reporting
- Revealing graphs that invite a “wow!” response when others see exactly what you’re dealing with
- An “indispensable” aid to forecasting for planning new buildings and classroom moves from one building to another
- A tool that “really showed where we weren’t being efficient and, when you’re scheduling 85–90 percent, you’ve got to be efficient.”
- In sum: “We’ve barely touched on the powers of X25. It’s amazing.”

Want to know more?

To discuss your challenges in the areas of space planning and optimization, and how X25 can help you, call 503.973.5200 or email sales@collegenet.com.

