In 2020, the Office of Classroom Management’s (OCM) efforts helped address new challenges facing the University of Minnesota by ensuring access to safe learning spaces, aligning classes with new teaching modalities and guidelines, and supporting new technologies.

COVID-19 Safety and Preparedness

- Collaborated with University Services to support new HVAC systems, learning space cleaning protocols, and implement physical distancing standards.
- Developed and maintained multiple “Sunrise Plans” to ensure safe on-site work of OCM staff and student staff and for general-purpose space usage.
- Ensured access to more than 400 general-purpose classrooms by modeling 6’ and 3’ physical distancing layouts in under two weeks.
- Developed and placed 20,000+ chair signs and 5,000+ floor stickers to promote safe distancing and identify available seats.

Support for New Teaching Modalities

- Implemented newly defined class formats for use in summer 2020 and beyond: **In-person, Blended** (both in person and online/remote), **Remote** (fully online with synchronous meeting patterns) and **Online** (fully online with no set meeting patterns).
- Worked collaboratively with Twin Cities departments to review classes for changes that needed to be made due to changes in delivery format for summer 2020 and beyond.
- Executed revised production calendars and deadlines to better support faculty and students getting timely information.
- Moved final exams to an online format across campus.
- Worked with the Office of Information Technology to coordinate and support faculty and instructor readiness with proactive outreach and communication.
New Technology

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, OCM’s 2020 annual budget included one-time funding from University leadership to adapt academic spaces and support flexible class delivery. Though these funds have already had a short-term impact, that investment will continue to provide long-term value to the University by supporting ongoing development and maintenance of academic learning spaces.

Learning spaces updated

271 of 333 rooms

Satisfaction Survey

Each year, OCM sends a survey to instructors for feedback on their learning spaces. In 2020, the average satisfaction with OCM spaces, services, technologies, and physical attributes was 83%.

Individual Satisfaction Scores

The satisfaction percentages are based on the number of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with each service category.

86% Learning Spaces

75% Technology

88% Physical Attributes