

Conklin Hall Expansion/One-Stop Student Center Frequently Asked Questions

What will Conklin Hall’s renovation and expansion entail?

Conklin Hall is being upgraded and expanded to create a One-Stop Student Center. Through a combination of renovations to 12,000 square feet on the first floor and the addition of 6,500 square feet, the One-Stop will make available in one location a range of services to students and prospective students and families, including a Call Center, Cashiering, Financial Aid, ID Services, Registrar, Student Accounting, and Summer/Winter Sessions. The One-Stop will replace the offices dedicated to these services that are currently spread out across the third floor and second floor of Blumenthal Hall. The renovation also will feature a large space for commuters, including a computer lab, work tables, booths, chairs and sofas, providing commuters with more space on campus to work, study, and relax. Further, One-Stop staff members will be cross-trained to help with a variety of services and reduce the need for students to shuttle from one desk to another. Small “huddle rooms” will be used by staff to discuss concerns and issues with students, ensuring more privacy. Upon completion, the renovated first floor of Conklin Hall will include a glass façade and a pitched, angled roof. An exterior elevator on the south side of the building will create barrier-free access to services inside, as well as to the Samuels Plaza.

Why is the One-Stop Student Center being created?

Creating a One-Stop was first suggested by students providing feedback as part of Rutgers-Newark’s 2014 strategic planning process. As the university took immediate steps to improve the spaces and synergies in where student services have been provided, more student input was sought to refine ideas about how best to situate those services permanently in one location. Nationally, one-stop centers are an emerging best practice to assist in streamlining and improving the student experience, especially as it relates to enrollment service offices. As part of a university-wide plan, one-stop centers have been planned for all Rutgers University campuses; New Brunswick and Camden established one-stop centers in the past two years. The current rendering of the Rutgers-Newark One Stop was shared with the Student Governing Association in mid-April 2023.

Why is the One-Stop going to be in Conklin Hall?

The Office of the Chancellor, Office of Enrollment and Student Experience, School of Arts and Sciences Newark, Division of Student Affairs, and Office of Institutional Planning and Operations planned together for many months to identify a site for a permanent, unified One-Stop in the context of the Rutgers-Newark campus master plan. Conklin Hall emerged as the best location because it addresses the longstanding desire expressed by students to have services readily accessible at the heart of the campus. It also reflects the pivotal role that Conklin Hall has played in student life at Rutgers-Newark, as a space “liberated” by the courageous Black Organization of Students on February 24, 1969, to protest the lack of diversity on campus and across Rutgers then, leading to reforms that would make Rutgers-Newark one of the nation’s most diverse.

What is the timeline for the work on Conklin Hall?

Work will begin in spring 2023, with the first visible signs of construction in late May or early June. During early Summer 2023, the Writing Center and Writing Program will relocate to custom-designed offices on the second floor of the Hahne’s Building. Construction will proceed in the ensuing months, with completion expected in Fall 2025.

What will be done to mitigate inconveniences for those who will continue to use Conklin Hall during the construction period?

The project team will meet regularly with representatives of the departments and offices located in Conklin Hall to identify and address concerns. Updates will include discussion of upcoming phases of construction and measures that can be taken to minimize disruption. As with all large-scale construction projects, some noise will be unavoidable, such as hammering, sawing, drilling, and vehicle sounds, and some construction activities will create vibrations.

What measures will be taken to ensure environmental health and safety?

All asbestos abatement work will be performed under the oversight of the NJ Department of Community Affairs using a licensed abatement contractor with trained and qualified workers and supervisors. The work area will be isolated from the occupied areas of the building and will be placed under negative pressure to prevent any infiltration of air from the work area into occupied areas of the building. This work is being scheduled as “Second Shift” work, to occur between 5 p.m. and 5 a.m. A detailed description of the safeguards in place for asbestos abatement may be found in a separate set of Frequently Asked Questions (also accompanying the email message containing the present FAQ).