

SECTION 3.0

PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines and standards is to facilitate the understanding of what the University requires and desires of their designs among design professionals commissioned by the University of Houston to design facilities.

The University requires that the designs adhere to the general spirit of the “fundamental values of the Campus”; it requires the general application of the "Architectural Design Guidelines" and the "Landscape Design Guidelines" with respect to specific projects. The “fundamental values” derive from criteria developed by the University of Houston College of Architecture DesignLab the Campus Framework Plan developed by Cooper, Robertson, and Partners in 2006 and by earlier planning studies all of which are incorporated within Section 5.0.

Visually, the University's campus is green with trees from its original woods and from the perpetuation of those woods through constant replanting. Indeed, this wooded image of the campus is one of its most traditional symbols. The University desires to be a "Green" campus beyond the symbolism of its woods. To this end the University requires that its facilities projects be sustainable designs to the maximum extent possible under the scope of work and budget available to each project. The "Section 7.0 Sustainable Design Guidelines" explain what the University expects in this area.

The overall square feet needed to support Education and General functions may be predicted from formulae published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The THECB also establishes building efficiencies for various project types and places requirements on the documentation and identification of building areas. “Section 8.0 Space Guidelines and Utilization Goals” provides more information on the THECB’s requirements.

When design of facilities involves new or remodeled parking, the "Section 9.0 Parking Standards and Guidelines shall apply to these facilities.

Some design projects require signage, both externally and internally. Section 10.0 Wayfinding Standards and Guidelines" will be incorporated into these projects.

There are a number of technical desires and requirements that are to be acknowledged in the design of the University's facilities. These requirements are both specific (prescriptive) and general (performance) in nature. The University publishes two documents identifying these requirements. The first, normally used in the conceptual and schematic design phases, is Section 12 of these guidelines: "Construction Systems and Assemblies Guidelines and Standards", which is organized in Unifomat style.

The second document, which is in CSI MasterFormat style, consists of the Master Construction Specifications (<http://www.uh.edu/plantops/departments/fpc/master-specs/index.php>) and is used from design development on in the design construction process.

The "Facility Program" is prepared with the assistance of the Facilities Planning and Construction Department. It summarizes the entire project, and forms part of the agreement among the Board of Regents, the System Administration, the Component's Administration, and the Project Planning Committee. The "Facility Program" also records the adherence of the consultant's design to the applicable Campus Guidelines and Standards.

Components of the "Facility Program" include:

- Department Mission Statement (*optional*)
- Justification Statement
- Owner's Milestone Schedule
- Design and Construction Schedule
- Applicable Codes & Owner's Design Criteria
- Site Considerations
- Architectural Overview (Height, Palette, etc.)
- Space List/Inventory
- Structural Overview
 - Foundation Type
 - Building System
- MEP Overview
 - Heating & Cooling Sources
 - Air Handling, Ductwork, Exhaust
 - Controls
 - Site Utilities
 - Lightning Protection
 - Emergency Power
- Fire Protection
- Cost Estimate/Construction Cost Limitation
- Source of Funds
- Delivery Method Type
- Outline Specifications (*if applicable*)
- Conceptual Site Plan, Floor Plans, and Elevations (*if applicable*)

The "Facility Program" documents the project, its program, its budget, its schedule and, if applicable, its schematic design for presentation to and approval by the University of Houston System Board of Regents, as required by that body in its policies. Current Board policies related to facilities construction and contract authorization can be found at <http://www.uhsystem.edu/board-of-regents/policies/index.php#SectionVI>.