CASE STUDY

Client: Wellesley College

Science Center

Temporary Lab and Classrooms

In January 2018, Triumph Modular undertook a significant project with Wellesley College, constructing a temporary science center to support the school's three-year, $250 million renovation of its main science facility. The college's decision to use modular buildings was informed by successful visits to nearby modular installations, highlighting the approach's feasibility and adaptability. Triumph Modular efficiently installed forty-one units within six months, ensuring the new science center was ready for student use by June 2018. This modular complex enabled Wellesley College to proceed with its ambitious renovation plan without disrupting science instruction or restricting student access to essential laboratory spaces.

Triumph Modular's solution addressed all four of Wellesley's key objectives: attracting top students by providing high-quality temporary facilities; fostering an environment conducive to scientific research; meeting stringent lab standards; and creating a productive new workspace for faculty. The project required specialized installations such as standard and ADA-compliant fume hoods, custom fabricated ductwork, and dedicated piping for chemical use, all while ensuring compliance with environmental health and safety regulations. High-hazard chemical storage areas were equipped with enhanced fire ratings and secure cages for added protection.

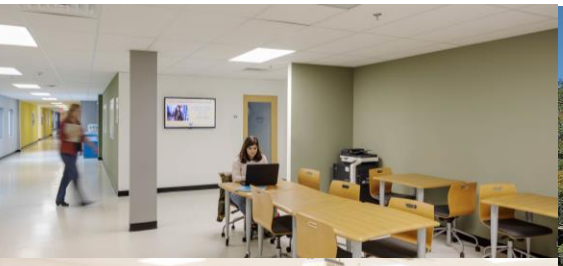
Project Details

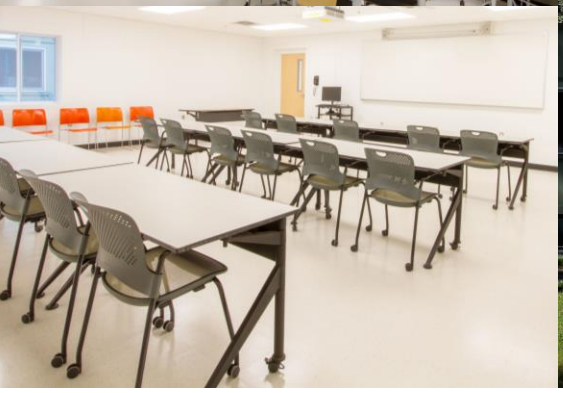
Location
Wellesley, MA

Square Feet
32,000

Modular Units
41

CASE STUDY





To meet the building's technical needs, Triumph Modular installed HVAC makeup air units to support mechanical ventilation, and a backup generator for uninterrupted operation. Three units were specifically designed as vivarium spaces for lab animals, featuring redundant HVAC systems and 24-hour environmental monitoring; these were later removed and replaced for classroom use when animal research concluded. The site itself presented challenges, with half of the area being a parking lot and the other half grassy terrain, featuring significant elevation changes. Triumph Modular utilized a helical foundation system—over 400 in total—to avoid major excavation and accommodate existing utility lines running beneath the site. The modular units were arranged in pods, connected by fully conditioned, site-built hallways.

Additional considerations included renovating the Clapp Library for geology department archive storage, ensuring the foundation could support heavy loads. Throughout the project, Triumph Modular demonstrated meticulous attention to code compliance, fire protection, egress, and ADA accessibility, conducting full code reviews with design professionals. The modular buildings provided flexible swing space, allowing Wellesley to adapt to evolving campus needs and maintain agility for future planning. The project's scope included a mix of labs, classrooms, departmental offices, and even a small café, with units sourced and remanufactured from Triumph Modular's own fleet to meet current code standards.

Notably, the modular units have extended their stay well beyond the original three-year plan, demonstrating the inherent flexibility and value of this approach. The use of modular has enabled Wellesley College to remain agile, keeping the campus fully operational by utilizing these swing spaces as other departments have undergone renovations. This strategy has allowed the college to continue its academic mission uninterrupted, supporting both ongoing operations and long-term campus development.