Health Education Building
Adding space for more students, modern curriculum

KU seeks support for its Health Education Initiative to train more doctors for Kansas. Specifically, the KU School of Medicine proposes increasing its class size across all campuses by 50 students by 2017. This requires a new Health Education Building in Kansas City.

Expanding Capacity
KU’s current health education building, the Orr-Major building, is at capacity and cannot add additional students. The building’s auditorium has a capacity of 175 and can’t handle a larger class.

Accommodating a modern curriculum
The Orr-Major building opened in 1976. Its rooms were designed for lectures rather than a modern curriculum that emphasizes small-group, active learning. Classrooms are severely outdated and designed for microscope and surgical laboratory work that is no longer part of the curriculum. In many rooms, student seating is built-in, and desktop space doesn’t allow room for laptops or computers.

In recent years, medical schools nationwide have updated their curriculum to keep up with technological advances and changes in health care delivery standards. KU modernized its curriculum nearly seven years ago. This 21st Century training:

- Emphasizes small-group, interdisciplinary problem solving
- Allows more direct contact with faculty for in-depth discussion
- Uses simulation with actors as patients and robots in lieu of patients
- Is technology-driven, requiring interactive televideo and graphics
- Takes place in a building recognized as the medical education building, which houses students, program administration and the telecommunication hub for all campuses.

Meeting accreditation standards
The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the nation’s medical school accrediting body, requires schools to meet certain standards regarding facilities. In March 2014, the committee accredited the KU School of Medicine for the next eight years but listed the school’s training facilities as an area of concern. The LCME said the school must demonstrate progress in addressing student and faculty dissatisfaction with its facilities by August 2015. Thus, a new Health Education Building is imperative to our accreditation.

For details, visit doctors4KS.ku.edu.

More information: Natalie Lutz, KU Medical Center, (913) 588-2598, nlutz3@kumc.edu