

CAPITAL PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

2026 - 2032

Capital Planning System Reports

BRANCH:

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AGENCY:

Northern Kentucky University

MISSION AND PROGRAMS

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) is a public institution of higher education established in 1968 under Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 164, which outlines the governance and statutory authority of the state's public postsecondary institutions. Located in Highland Heights, just seven miles from downtown Cincinnati, NKU is the youngest of the Commonwealth's senior institutions and serves as a key regional university with a strong metropolitan mission.

NKU's operations are guided by its strategic framework, Success by Design, which defines the university's vision: NKU will be nationally recognized for being a student-ready, regionally engaged university that empowers diverse learners for economic and social mobility. Renewed through 2025, the plan prioritizes access, completion, and career and community engagement to meet the evolving needs of students and the region.

NKU offers a comprehensive range of academic programs through its colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, Health & Human Services, Informatics, Law, and its Honors College. Degree offerings include associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees (including the Juris Doctor and doctorates in education and nursing practice). In Fall 2024, NKU enrolled 15,370 students, including 10,327 undergraduates and 5,043 graduate students. Degree conferrals have increased by 26% since 2019/20.

The university maintains a strong emphasis on innovative, student-centered instruction. All classrooms are equipped as smart classrooms, enhancing teaching and learning with modern educational technology. NKU employs flexible delivery models including in-person, hybrid, and fully online formats to ensure accessibility and support student success. Online enrollment has grown significantly between 2019 and 2024, online majors increased by 101%, and graduate enrollment rose by 88%. NKU currently offers 18 online bachelor's degrees, 13 masters', 1 doctorate, and 5 post-graduate certificates.

In addition to traditional degree pathways, NKU supports lifelong learning and workforce development through initiatives such as dual-credit courses offered in 40 high schools and cohort programs with local healthcare providers. The Young Scholars Academy, launched in 2020 with Kenton County Schools, enables high-achieving high school students to complete up to 60 college credits on NKU's campus. Participation in the program has grown by 188% since its inception.

FUNDING SUMMARY

Fund Source	2026-2028 Biennium	2028-2030 Biennium	2030-2032 Biennium	Total
Restricted Funds	6,000,000	-	-	6,000,000
General Fund	314,450,000	85,000,000	100,000,000	499,450,000
Other - Third Party Financing	219,500,000	42,250,000	40,000,000	301,750,000
Agency Bonds	35,500,000	-	5,650,000	41,150,000
Total	575,450,000	127,250,000	145,650,000	848,350,000

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PLAN OVERVIEW

Northern Kentucky University's (NKU's) strategic framework plan, Success by Design, places a singular focus on advancing student success aligned with the needs of the Northern Kentucky region. The university's 2020 Campus Master Plan, builds upon these principles, aiming to blend NKU's rich history with its future ambitions. A key aspect of this plan is a sustainable approach to re-purpose NKU's original buildings into modern, active learning environments for the 21st century. This Capital Plan prioritizes investments to enhance student engagement, strengthen NKU's competitive edge, support digital initiatives and grow strategic partnerships.

NKU's \$146M in total Asset Preservation funding for 2022-2024 and 2024-2026 is directed toward essential improvements, addressing critical issues across campus addressing critical needs regarding building conditions, adequacy and capacity. However, despite this significant investment, challenges remain. For this reason, modernizing the Business Academic Center is the Plan's top priority, aiming to address the buildings capital renewal needs and create a modern student-focused environment designed to enhance learning and engagement. Additionally, the Plan stresses the importance of securing state funding for continued asset preservation priorities across campus, especially for major classroom and academic support buildings.

The renewal of Nunn Hall will modernize the building for undergraduate use after relocation of Chase College of Law to the new Biomedical Center of Excellence in Covington. The Capital Plan also incorporates renovations recommended by the Master Plan for Steely Library and the Mathematics-Education-Psychology Center. Expansion of Herrmann Science, funded by the 2022 Legislature, is under construction. This project will address NKU's need for additional lab space serving all STEM majors, leveraging the university's impressive track record in graduating students prepared for STEM careers. Planning for the renewal and modernization of Landrum Academic Center is proceeding well.

NKU is deeply committed to fostering student access, completion, career readiness, and community engagement principles that are clearly reflected in its capital priorities. Through continuous investment in its classrooms and laboratories, NKU plays a pivotal role in developing talent and driving both economic and social progress in the region.

These initiatives underscore NKU's dedication to delivering academic excellence while simultaneously responding to the needs of the local community. The university prepares its graduates not only to thrive in their careers but also to contribute meaningfully to the regional economy and social development.

In conclusion, NKU's Capital Plan is a forward-looking investment that strengthens both the university's educational mission and its long-term vision for regional growth. This plan positions NKU as a key player in fostering a better future for both its students and the broader community, ensuring that it continues to be a source of innovation, opportunity, and positive change.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Proposed Projects Involving the General Fund (cash or bonds)

(amounts in **bold** are the total budget)

2026-2028 Biennium

(Projects listed by agency priority; descriptions are from the agency submission)

1	Renovate Business Academic Building	105,000,000
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This project involves renovation and capital renewal of the 110,693 square foot Business Academic Center, including repair of structural floor heaving. (C-PI)

CPAB Staff Notes

- *This project was authorized in the 2020-2022 biennial budget; however, the project has not been undertaken due to a lack of funding.*
- *This project was included in the past five capital plans.*
- *This project includes General Fund of \$100 million and private funding (cash) of \$5 million.*
- *The University notes that the cost of the project has increased due to inflation.*

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- *This project includes General Fund of \$100 million and private funding (cash) of \$5 million.*

- *The University notes that the cost of the project has increased due to inflation.*

2	Renew/Renovate Nunn Hall	105,000,000
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This project involves the renovation of Nunn Hall, a 113,451 square foot academic facility, to modernize and repurpose the building for contemporary undergraduate instruction following the relocation of Chase College of Law to the KY Biomedical Center of Excellence. (C-PI)

CPAB Staff Notes

- *New Project - This project involves the renovation of Nunn Hall, a 113,451 square foot academic facility, to modernize and repurpose the building for contemporary undergraduate instruction following the move of Chase College of Law to the KY Biomedical Center of Excellence.*
- *This project includes General Fund of \$100 million and private funding (cash) of \$5 million.*

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3	2026-2028 Asset Preservation Pool	50,000,000
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The 2026-2028 Asset Preservation pool will provide funding to replace building systems and the infrastructure that support the university's educational and general and residential buildings. Systems at the end of their expected life cycles will be prioritized. (C-PI)

CPAB Staff Notes

- This project is related to the FY22-24 Asset Preservation Pool associated with CPE biennial recommended project authorizations. These projects accommodate related deferred maintenance initiatives and improvements.
- Phase I and II of this pool were authorized for \$46.8 million and \$46.2 million, respectively, in the last two budgets.

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4	Enhance Online Programs Reauth Add'l	9,500,000
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This project provides authority for the second phase of the administrative systems upgrade project. (IT)

CPAB Staff Notes

- *Phase I of this project was authorized in the 2024-2026 biennial budget. This is a request for additional funds that are needed to complete the project.*
- *This project provides authority for the second phase of the administrative systems upgrade project.*

- *This project provides authority for the second phase of the administrative systems upgrade project.*

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Proposed Projects Involving Other Fund Sources
(amounts in **bold** are the total budget)

2026-2028 Biennium

(Projects listed by agency priority; descriptions are from the agency submission)

Acquire Land/Master Plan 2010-2012 Reauth **25,500,000 RF/AB/OT**

This project will allow the university to take advantage of real property acquisition opportunities during the 2026-2028 biennium to support educational programs and campus development. Land acquisition is critical to future development of the university; the 2020 Master Plan recommends the purchase of 35 acres. This project includes acquisition of a campus ministry building located in the center of campus. Project financing pursuant to KRS 45.763 is requested. (C-O)

Develop US 27 Mixed Use Site **200,000,000 OT**

The university will issue an RFP to identify a developer to lead development of the 12-acre site at the main entrance to campus at US 27. A town/gown type mixed-use development is the goal. The university will lease the land to the successful developer but will make no other investment in the project. Project financing pursuant to KRS 45.763 is requested. (C-O)

Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracts **1,000,000 OT**

The Guaranteed Energy Performance Projects Pool serves as a central project pool for Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracts in any university-owned building. These contracts will function as a lease-purchase procurement, using energy savings as payments for improvements, as provided by KRS 56.770 to 56.784. (C-PI)

Renew/Repair Parking Garage Pool Reauth **3,000,000 AB**

This project will address significant repair issues in three parking garages which total 578,000 GSF and hold 1,800 cars. (C-PI)

Renovate Residence Halls Add'l Reauthor **15,000,000 AB**

This project envisions various capital renewal projects in university-owned residence halls. (C-PI)

Replace Event Center Technology Reauthorization **4,500,000 OT**

This project will replace the center hung scoreboard and ribbon boards in Truist Arena, a 243,000 square foot multi-purpose event center that opened in 2008. Project financing is requested pursuant to KRS 45.763. (C-PI)

Replace Recreation Field Turf Reauthorization **2,000,000 RF**

The recreation fields multi-purpose synthetic surface will be replaced with new turf. (C-PI)

2026-2028 Biennium Total:	<hr/> 251,000,000
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NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Proposed Projects Involving Other Fund Sources
(amounts in **bold** are the total budget)

2028-2030 Biennium

Construct Basketball Practice Facility	25,000,000 OT
Construct Hitting Facility	4,000,000 OT
Replace Regents Hall Technology	1,750,000 OT
Upgrade Baseball/Softball Fields	8,500,000 OT
2028-2030 Biennium Total:	39,250,000

2030-2032 Biennium

Construct Indoor Multi-Purpose Facility	40,000,000 OT
Reconstruct West Side Parking	5,650,000 AB
2030-2032 Biennium Total:	45,650,000