

# SELF-GUIDED TOUR

*Start in Westlands lobby ...*

**W**estlands was the home of William and Sarah Lawrence and was built in 1912. It now houses many administrative offices such as the Office of Admission and Financial Aid, the President's Office, the offices of the Dean of Studies and Student Life and the Dean of the College, and is typical of the multipurpose nature of most of Sarah Lawrence's buildings. In keeping with our belief that living should not be separated from learning, most of our buildings are a combination of administrative and/or teachers' offices, classrooms, and student housing. In this way, the conversations going on inside the classrooms naturally continue outside them as well. On the first floor of the building, in addition to offices, you'll find a typical Sarah Lawrence classroom (Westlands 104, across from the staircase) that exemplifies our round table seminar setting ... rather than a lecture hall. Most academic classes take place around these seminar tables where the maximum class size is 15.

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## The Academic System

The Sarah Lawrence academic structure is based on the Oxford and Cambridge system of tutorials and is unique in this country. Almost all of our academic courses are taught in what is called the seminar and conference system, which combines small discussion- and writing-centered courses with independent study. Students take three courses at a time and for each seminar meet individually with their teachers every other week to design an independent study that builds on their individual areas of interest within the course. For example, a student in a literature course may choose to read more works by a specific author who has caught his attention and do a paper on this reading. Another student in a science course might design a research project on a specific process or theory raised in seminar. Students receive extensive written evaluations at the end of each semester, but also receive traditional letter grades to aid in their admission to graduate school.

At Sarah Lawrence we do not have traditional majors. We believe that learning should be interdisciplinary and that students should not be limited in what they study by declaring a major. All students graduate with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts, which provides limitless opportunities for our students in regard to employment or graduate study. Nearly 75 percent of our students go on to graduate school, and our students are attractive to potential employers due to their self-directed nature and remarkable talent as writers. We do not have a core curriculum, but students are required to take courses in three of our four areas of study: History and the Social Sciences, the Humanities, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the Creative and Performing Arts.

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If you go out the back door of Westlands and stand just at the top of the stairs, you'll see to your right what are commonly referred to as the "old dorms" at SLC: **Dudley Lawrence**, **Titsworth**, and **Gilbert**. These are also original College buildings and have a mix of teachers' offices, classroom spaces, and residences. In a student's first year, she or he will live in a double or triple room. Sophomore year, students live in a double or a single. And most students have a single room after their sophomore year. Additional seminar classrooms can be seen to the right on the first floor of Dudley Lawrence and Titsworth, and in Titsworth you'll also find a small lecture hall and a dance studio. Just uphill from the old dorms, next to Westlands, is **MacCracken**, which includes several writing faculty offices, a 24-hour study space, and two large dance studios, one of which is named for Robert and Ruth Farrow Caldwell.

On your left are three residence halls built in the 1950s: **Rothschild**, **Garrison**, and **Taylor**. Garrison and Taylor are the only buildings on campus that follow the traditional dorm structure with rows of rooms and shared bathrooms on each floor. Rothschild, like Andrews Court and Slonim Woods, have rooms arranged in suites. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors petition to live in these spaces as groups, and each student has his or her own room while sharing common spaces such as kitchens, bathrooms, and living rooms. Taylor features the College's second green roof, the result of a student-driven initiative. (The first green roof is on the subterranean section of Heimbold.)

Directly ahead of you is the **Communita House**, or **Teahaus**. This small space is currently used as a social space for students. Tea and baked goods are sold throughout the day, and students can use the Teahaus for quiet study, open mic nights, and readings.

Follow the path to the right downhill between the "old dorms" and the Teahaus.

As you continue down the path, you will come to **Bates Center for Student Life** at the bottom of the hill. Renovated in 2005-06, this building contains the main dining areas, including Bates Common Dining (BCD), which was remodeled in 2009 to accommodate "destination dining." Bates also contains the offices of Student Affairs, Career Counseling, College Events, Community Partnerships and Service Learning; student organization, meeting, and social spaces; the post office; a student-run gallery; a spiritual space; and the Black Squirrel, a student lounge offering a big-screen TV, billiards, and other recreational games.

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### **First-Year Studies and Donning**

The only required class at Sarah Lawrence is a First-Year Studies course where students are introduced to the seminar and conference system. First-year Studies courses are offered in all disciplines and are chosen by students the summer before they enroll at the College. This course is limited to 13 students and is taught by a faculty member who becomes the student's don, or adviser. In addition to meeting with the class twice each week, students meet with their dons individually once a week for their entire first year to discuss conference work for the class and to ease their transition to the College. The don serves primarily as the student's academic adviser, but also serves as a liaison between the student and other offices when necessary. Students normally keep the same don for all four years at Sarah Lawrence, but may switch dons after the first year if they wish.

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Follow the path around to the left side of Bates, and the staircase will bring you down to the courtyard in front of the **Alice Stone Ilchman Science Center**. This building has eight teaching and special project laboratories, five preparation and instrument rooms, a science reading lounge, classrooms, faculty offices, and a faculty computer center. Wireless connectivity is available throughout the building. Studying science and mathematics at Sarah Lawrence provides extensive opportunities for individual student research as well as research with faculty. Undergraduates interested in attending medical school receive individual and group guidance from our medical school adviser in addition to the guidance of their dons. SLC students who participate in the Summer Science Program also have the opportunity to become mentors to talented local high school students. The teens come to campus for a week of serious scientific study, working side by side with Sarah Lawrence undergraduates, conducting experiments in physics, molecular biology, developmental robotics, computer science, and organic chemistry.

Coming out of the Ilchman Science Center, turn left and head out the iron gates. Before you exit, notice **North Building** on your left, which is home to the country's first master's degree program in women's history, and **Sheffield** on your right, a classroom and faculty office building that originally served as the Lawrence family's stable and garage.

Turn right up Mead Way, and on your left, you'll see the Mead Way houses: **Brebner, Mansell, Perkins, Morris, Warren, and Schmidt**. Purchased over the years, these single-family homes now serve as student residences, and some include faculty office space. Take special notice of **Warren Green**, which was renovated in 2008 following environmentally responsible "best practice" principles. Chosen by application and interviews with members of the Sustainability Committee, 13 student residents work together to form an ecofriendly, cooperative community.

As you approach **Westlands Gate** near the end of Mead Way, look to your left, and you will see **Swinford House**, home to the Office of Advancement, and **Robinson House**, which includes the Office of Communications and Alumnae/i Relations as well as the student-run radio station, WSLC. Behind Robinson is **Lyles House**, where medical and mental health professionals serve as Health Services staff. Students needing emergency medical attention will be transported to Lawrence Hospital, just five minutes away in downtown Bronxville.

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## Studying Performance Arts at Sarah Lawrence

Sarah Lawrence offers extensive programs in music, dance, and theatre. The breadth and depth of these programs makes them suitable for students who wish to pursue their art professionally as well as students who are interested only in taking a course or two. Unlike the academic courses taught in the seminar and conference system, the performing arts courses are offered in what is known as a component system. Rather than taking one performing arts course, students combine a number of components within the chosen subject, combining theory and practice. Each group of components counts as one course.

*In music*, these components would include private weekly instrumental instruction, theory and composition, performance opportunities, and concert attendance in addition to any other components relevant to the student's chosen area of study.

*In theatre*, students normally take four to six components that might include anything from scene study, auditioning, and directing to stage design, playwriting, and stage combat.

*In dance*, components would include technique, movement, anatomy, choreography, and technical work.

Unlike those at other colleges, Sarah Lawrence's performing arts programs also encourage study across disciplines. A student taking theatre components could also take voice lessons in the music program or a movement class in dance—and all of these components would count as a single course. In all of the performing arts, there are abundant opportunities for students to write, create, and produce their own original work.

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Turn right at the stop sign onto Glen Washington Road and then left at the crosswalk toward the **Esther Raushenbush Library**. Named for the sixth president of Sarah Lawrence, the library is central to life and learning at the College. Housing an impressive collection of books, government documents, microforms, videos, audio cassettes, and DVDs, the library offers a wide range of services to students. Access to the library's collection is available from any connection to the network, and the building is open until 1 a.m. during the week and until midnight on weekends, with extended hours at the end of each semester. Librarians and technologists are available to assist any student with individual research, and the college's extensive interlibrary loan system provides almost limitless access to additional resources. A favorite part of the library is the Pillow Room on the second floor, a comfortable space for studying and events, and the Academic Computing Help Desk is also located in the library.

Behind the Library, **Boulder** houses the Child Development Institute and the Early Childhood Center, one of the longest existing College laboratory schools. Students of child development and education gain firsthand knowledge and experience as participant observers and classroom assistants.

Turn left as you leave the library, and continue to the intersection of Glen Washington Road and Kimball Avenue. As you walk, you'll see **Andrews** to your left, a complex that houses Human Resources and other offices, classrooms, and student residences. Behind Andrews is **Andrews Court**, which offers suites for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. At the intersection flanked by SLC signage, you'll be facing the **President's House**. To your right, across Kimball Avenue, are **Lynd House** and **Tweed House**, traditional Sarah Lawrence buildings with classrooms, office space, and much-sought-after student housing.

Behind the President's House are **Marshall Field Music Building** and **Marshall Field Carriage House**. (Turn left through the brick archway into the courtyard.) Home to the College's music program, Marshall Field includes classrooms, faculty offices, teaching studios, practice rooms, an electronic music studio, a music software lab, a piano lab, and the William Schuman Music Library. The Cygnus Ensemble and Music from Copland House, both in residence at Sarah Lawrence, are also housed here.

From the intersection of Glen Washington Road and Kimball Avenue, proceed up the sidewalk in front of the President's House and turn right up the path after the president's driveway to the **Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Visual Arts Center** back stairway. Proceed up the steps and into the lobby.

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## Sarah Lawrence Students

Sarah Lawrence students come from nearly every state and from diverse countries around the world. We have as many students from California as from New York, with our next largest populations coming from the Northeast, Washington State, and Texas. There is no such thing as a “typical” Sarah Lawrence student, but it is safe to say that our scholars enjoy reading, writing, thinking, and talking. They are self-directed individuals who are looking to take control of their own education and value the opportunity to work closely with their teachers. They are often the students who, in high school, wished the class did not have to move so quickly past the topics that interested them. Our students are also known for being politically and socially aware—and active. Anyone looking to disappear into the back row of a lecture hall or take a passive role in her or his education probably would not be seeking Sarah Lawrence.

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Opened in 2004, Heimbold is a 60,000-square-foot space dedicated to the practical and interdisciplinary study of the visual arts. As a high-performance, LEED-certified “green” building, Heimbold features safe alternatives to toxic materials, special venting systems, and an abundance of natural light. In addition to well-equipped, open-space studios, individual ateliers, and digital technology in every studio and classroom, the building also includes space for welding, woodworking, ceramics, mold-making, and papermaking; a common darkroom; a digital imaging lab; critique rooms; a sound studio; a screening room; and a large exhibition area. Heimbold’s doors open onto a mini-quad, allowing students from throughout the College both access to and inspiration from their peers’ work in progress.

Standing with your back to Heimbold, you are facing **Slonim House**, home to Graduate Studies. Sarah Lawrence offers MFA programs in dance, theatre, and writing; MA programs in child development, health advocacy, and women’s history; an MS program in human genetics and dance/movement theory; an MEd program in the art of teaching; an MA/MSW dual degree in child development and social work with NYU; an MA/JD joint degree in women’s history and Law with Pace Law School; and a certificate program in public health genetics/genomics. Behind Slonim House is **Slonim Woods**, another group of townhouses that contain suites for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

If you walk through the center of Slonim Woods, you will end up facing the **Campbell Sports Center**. This 48,000-square-foot facility includes a gymnasium with two basketball courts, an elevated jogging track, a swimming pool, three squash courts, two student lounges, a rowing tank, and a dance studio that provides space for activities ranging from aerobics to fencing. The sports center also houses the Caspar Whitney Fitness Center, which features a variety of cardiovascular and weight-training equipment. Sarah Lawrence women compete at the intercollegiate level on crew, cross country, equestrian, softball, swimming, tennis, and volleyball teams. Men compete on intercollegiate basketball, crew, cross country, equestrian, soccer, and tennis teams.

Located behind Campbell Sports Center are **Kober** and **Curtis**, additional facilities for the Early Childhood Center, and **45 Wrexham**, which houses the Center for Continuing Education; the Office of Special Programs, which offers non-credit courses for adults and high school students; and the graduate programs in health advocacy and human genetics.

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## Student Life at Sarah Lawrence

Student life at Sarah Lawrence is entirely student driven, and the Student Senate disburses funding for student activities. Although there are some larger campus-wide events, most of student life happens in smaller groups. The arts have a large presence in the social life of our campus with an average of 40 to 50 theatre performances a year, countless fiction and poetry readings, dance and music concerts, and, of course, social dances and parties. It is common for students to make dinner for one another in one of the houses, go watch one of their friends perform on campus, and then go to an open-mic event or a party. If something students are interested in is not already happening on campus, it's easy for them to start a group or plan an event and request funding.

Close proximity to New York City is an added bonus. Midtown Manhattan is only a 30-minute train ride from the Bronxville station, which is a short 10-minute walk from campus. While not a replacement for the social life on campus, students take advantage of performances, readings, events, and restaurants in the city on a regular basis. The College frequently offers organized trips into New York, but students find it very easy to go into the city on their own as well. At the beginning of each year, we offer an orientation to New York City for those new to our area, and a shuttle meets each train arriving at the Bronxville station after dark. Students also commute in and out of the city for internships, the opportunities for which are unlimited and have included the United Nations, Mount Sinai Medical Center, the *Village Voice*, and *Good Morning, America*.

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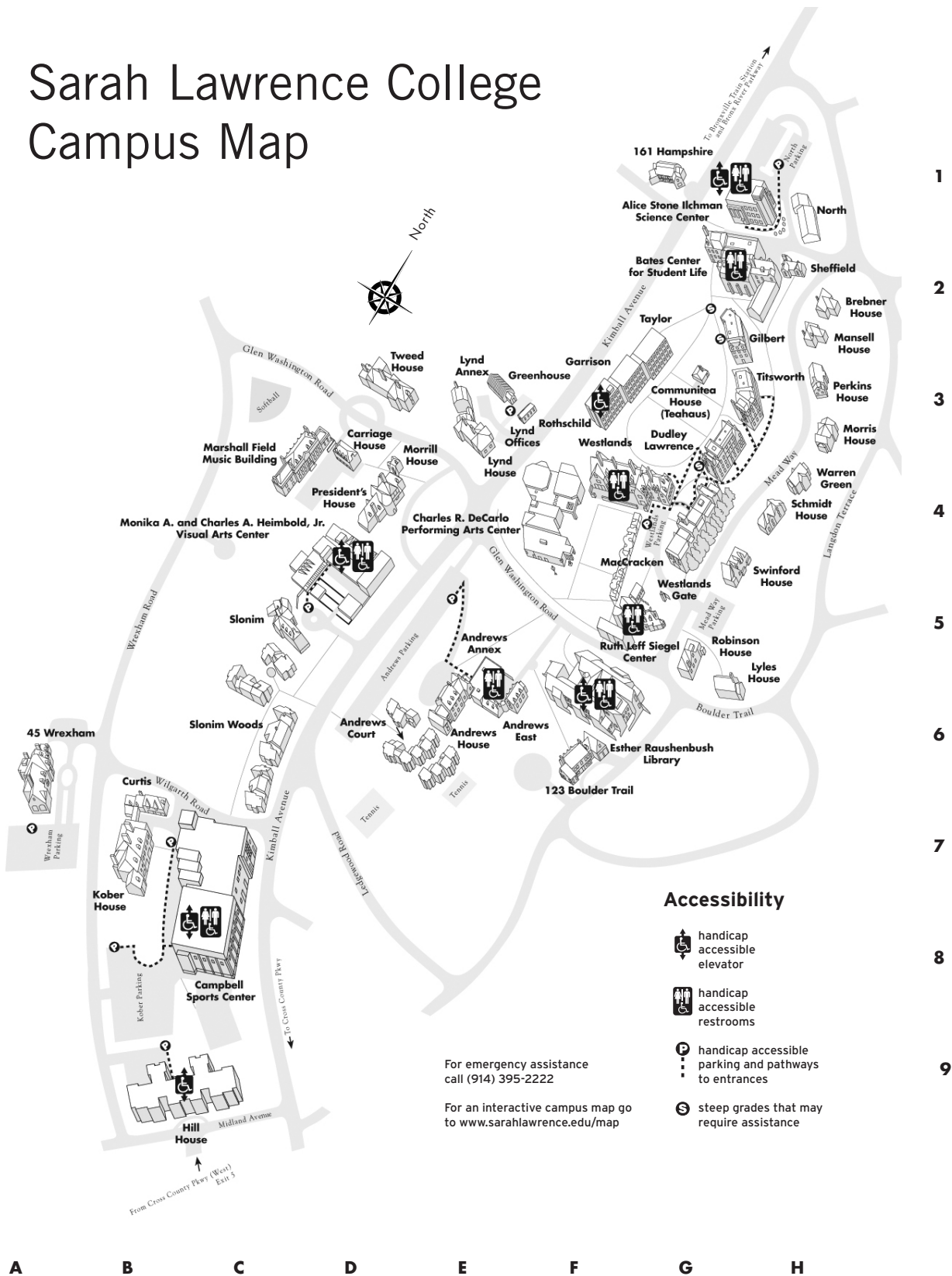
Behind the sports center and across the parking lot is **Hill House**. This residential building offers students the opportunity to live in campus housing but in an apartment house setting. **Hill2Go** is located here as well and offers healthy takeout meal options and groceries that can be purchased through the student's meal plan.

Walking back through Slonim Woods and Heimbald, you can cross Kimball Avenue at Glen Washington Road. Take the first path on the left once you've crossed back to the center of campus, and this will lead you to the **Charles R. DeCarlo Performing Arts Center**. Named for the seventh president of the College, the PAC offers a range of facilities from the 117-seat Frances Ann Cannon Workshop Theatre to the 200-seat Suzanne Werner Wright Theatre to the 400-seat Reisinger Concert Hall. Also located in this building are the Bessie Schönberg Dance Studio, two smaller theatres (one of which is student-run,) and the College bookstore.

Standing with your back to the PAC, you will be facing the **Ruth Leff Siegel Student Center**, also known as the Pub. This space, open nearly 24 hours a day, provides students with another dining option of short-order food and grab-and-go snacks. The center also has an inviting outdoor terrace, a viewing room with a large-screen television, a news lounge, a convenient ATM, and a multipurpose meeting space.

The **wisteria arbor** leading you from the Siegel Center back to Westlands is in full bloom in late spring or early summer—usually just in time for commencement—and is a signature of the campus.

# Sarah Lawrence College Campus Map



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## Buildings

E-6 Andrews Annex  
E-6 Andrews Court  
E-6 Andrews East  
E-6 Andrews House  
G-2 Bates Center for Student Life  
F-6 123 Boulder Trail  
H-2 Brebner House (12 Mead Way)  
C-8 Campbell Sports Center  
D-4 Carriage House  
G-3 Communita House (Teahaus)  
B-7 Curtis  
F-4 Charles R. DeCarlo Performing Arts Center  
G-3 Dudley Lawrence  
G-3 Garrison  
H-2 Gilbert  
G-1 161 Hampshire  
D-5 Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr.  
Visual Arts Center  
C-9 Hill House  
H-1 Alice Stone Ilchman Science Center  
B-7 Kober House  
H-6 Lyles House (153 Boulder Trail)  
E-3 Lynd Annex  
E-3 Lynd House  
G-4 MacCracken  
H-3 Mansell House (10 Mead Way)  
D-4 Marshall Field Music Building  
E-4 Morrill House  
H-3 Morris House (8 Mead Way)  
H-1 North  
H-3 Perkins House (9 Mead Way)  
D-4 President's House  
F-6 Esther Raushenbush Library  
G-5 Robinson House (2 Mead Way)  
F-3 Rothschild  
H-4 Schmidt House (6 Mead Way)  
H-2 Sheffield  
G-5 Ruth Leff Siegel Center  
D-5 Slonim  
C-6 Slonim Woods  
H-5 Swinford House (4 Mead Way)  
G-3 Taylor  
H-3 Titsworth  
D-2 Tweed House  
H-4 Warren Green (7 Mead Way)  
G-4 Westlands  
G-5 Westlands Gate  
A-6 45 Wrexham

## Facilities and Spaces

G-2 Black Squirrel (Bates)  
G-4 Caldwell Dance Studio (MacCracken)  
F-4 Frances Ann Cannon Workshop Theatre (PAC)  
G-2 Common Ground (Bates)  
G-4 Dance Studio (MacCracken)  
G-2 Dining Room (Bates)  
D-5 Donnelley Theatre (Heimbold)  
F-4 Film Viewing Room (PAC)  
G-2 Kamenstein-Markin Blue Room (Bates)  
C-3 Mary LeVine Field (Marshall Field)  
G-4 MacCracken Meeting Room (MacCracken)  
F-4 Reisinger Concert Hall (PAC)  
F-4 Bessie Schönberg Dance Theatre (PAC)  
D-4 William Schuman Music Library (Marshall Field)  
C-8 Casper Whitney Fitness Center (Campbell)  
F-4 Suzanne Werner Wright Theatre (PAC)

## Offices and Services

G-4 Administrative Offices (Westlands)  
G-4 Admission—Undergraduate (Westlands)  
H-5 Advancement (Swinford)  
G-5 Alumnae/i Relations (Robinson)  
F-4 Bookstore (PAC)  
A-6 Center for Continuing Education (45 Wrexham)  
F-6 Child Development Institute (Boulder)  
G-2 College Events (Bates)  
G-5 Communications and Marketing (Robinson)  
E-6 Comptroller (Andrews Annex)  
G-4 Dean of Studies (Westlands)  
F-6 Early Childhood Center (Boulder)  
B-7 Early Childhood Center (Kober)  
D-5 Graduate Studies (Slonim)  
A-6 Graduate Studies (Wrexham)  
H-6 Health Services (Lyles)  
E-6 Human Resources (Andrews Annex)  
G-4 International Programs Office (Westlands)  
F-6 Library (Esther Raushenbush Library)  
G-2 Office of Career Counseling (Bates)  
G-4 Office of Financial Aid (Westlands)  
E-6 Office of Operations and Facilities (Andrews)  
A-6 Special Programs (Wrexham)  
G-2 Student Affairs (Bates)