Computers, information technology and ever-more complex channels of communication impact every area of modern life. Widener’s new state-of-the-art academic building harnesses the power of that technology to offer a premier learning environment to students in some of the university’s most prominent and growing programs. Advances and innovations in technology enter our culture at a dizzying pace, and by allowing students the opportunity to learn in a technologically sophisticated setting that reflects industry standards, they’ll be prepared to lead these fields in new and responsible directions.

Joining these technologies under one roof will promote synergy among the three departments, and put Widener on the map as a leader in these fast-growing areas of study.

The communication studies and computer science programs will take up residence in the 18,000 square foot, three story academic building, slated for occupancy in August of 2013. They will be joined by the newly-founded informatics program, which represents the intersection of communication studies and computer science. This department will consist of two major areas of study; media informatics and business informatics, with a health informatics program under development.

Joining these technologies under one roof will promote synergy among the three departments, and put Widener on the map as a leader in these fast-growing areas of study. In addition to a TV studio, editing suites, focus group room, conference facility, and computer labs, the building will offer extensive space for student research and laboratory projects and faculty workshops. Its dramatic design and extraordinary use of highly visual décor will make the building a showplace, and a significant tool in the university’s recruiting efforts.

Taking the Lead
The Campaign for Widener
COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The communication studies program at Widener enjoys healthy enrollment and enthusiastic student satisfaction rates, in spite of its location in the basement of a renovated church at the end of campus that cannot offer the space or facilities required of a modern communication studies program. The new facility will boast a 750 square foot TV studio that will support a variety of functions including lectures, town hall meetings and interactive training session as well as small scale theatrical performances. A 75 seat screening room, smart classroom, editing suites and graphics lab will be among the features of the revamped program.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Many major US companies have expressed concern about the skills shortage in the IT field. Widener’s computer science program has built a strong reputation for preparing highly skilled professionals who not only know the current technology, but have also gained the foundation and theory to “learn how to learn” and to grow in their careers along with advances in the field. The computer sciences department is currently scattered in multiple locations, but this new facility will bring all the computer labs and offices together on one floor. In addition, the department will have a server room, mainframe room and group study area on the floor.

INFORMATICS

Informatics is the application of computing technology to specific problems. Advances in computing require greater understanding of problems in various disciplines, such as communication studies, business and health care. Students will learn computing, but they will learn it in context of other areas of study. It takes into account the strategic, social, cultural and organizational settings in which those solutions will be used. The new academic building will be home to the informatics program at Widener, which will offer major areas of study in media informatics and business informatics.