

Promote Compatibility Between the Campus and Its Distinct Surrounding Neighborhoods

Several vibrant, distinctive neighborhoods adjoin Belmont’s campus. The viability of these neighborhoods is important to those who live and work therein, and to the campus. They provide students with convenient housing, commercial services and churches. Belmont seeks, in conjunction with its development, to complement that of its neighbors through promoting compatibility of uses, scale and connection. Like the recent Curb Event/Beaman Student Center and the Kennedy Hall residences, the access, siting and design of future facilities will complement their adjoining neighborhood.

Enhance Accessibility

Compatibility between surrounding neighborhoods and the campus will be complete only if access between them is convenient. For example, students living in nearby multi-family complexes are encouraged to walk to the campus if they have safe and friendly pedestrian routes between their homes and campus, while those traveling on bicycles or in motor vehicles need better-defined, safer ways to access campus. In addition, we should consider options for alternative transit, including busses and shuttles.

Modernize Facilities

Many of Belmont’s classrooms, laboratories, residential and office spaces, and other facilities are older. In fact, most of the campus’ buildings – approximately 80% – were constructed before 1980; and the majority of these are at least 40 years old. Renovating or replacing buildings and enhancing amenities and technical capabilities are included in modernizing facilities for the benefit of students and everyone who uses Belmont learning and living facilities.



Strive for Smart Growth

Sustaining enrollment growth is an objective in Belmont’s future and will require physical expansion, including the construction of additional facilities and acquisition of property beyond the campus’ historical boundaries. Because responsible growth is an especially high priority when planning an urban campus, future expansion will include a natural extension of the existing campus, aiming to minimize impact on surrounding neighborhoods and maintain continuity throughout the campus.

	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Head Count	2,257	2,812	3,009	2,976	3,129	3,344	3,629	3,958
Full-time Enrollment	1,651	2,137	2,362	2,448	2,517	2,695	2,926	3,259
Residential	618	687	857	1,098	1,184	1,255	1,510	1,657
Commuter	1,639	2,125	2,152	1,878	1,945	2,089	2,119	2,301

Create a More Residential Campus

While the trend toward a more residential campus has been improving, approximately 58% of all undergraduate students still commute to the Belmont University campus. Future plans should include incentives and facilities – dormitories and alternative student housing – to bring the share of on-campus residents to 50 percent.

Create a Visually Attractive Campus

As a home to thousands of students, a professional haven for educators and a neighbor to many merchants and residents, Belmont University will no doubt improve the collective community's experience through a commitment to attractive visual design. Future plans will incorporate additional green space, less sprawl, improved parking structures, historically consistent architecture and aesthetically pleasing landscaping and pedestrian spaces.

Enhance Historical Context

Although the modernization of campus facilities is a number one priority, the University remains dedicated to preserving the historic identity of Belmont. New facilities will incorporate elements of the campus and community architectural vernacular, while all improvement and expansion projects on existing buildings and landscapes will acknowledge the character of Belmont's past *and* strive to meet the needs of students and faculty now and in the future.

Promote Safety and Encourage Convenience on Campus

Safety and convenience are of the utmost concern in every future plan; therefore, efforts to create pedestrian spaces with good lighting and exposure and to minimize traffic impact on and around Belmont University's campus will be emphasized.

Sustain Flexibility in Development Decisions

Because the University and its surrounding neighborhoods are in transition, Belmont should remain flexible in its development decisions as they relate to future program, space and time requirements. Through stated compatibility guidelines for use, siting, architecture, access, circulation, landscaping and lighting, Belmont will ensure that future campus and neighborhood development are complementary and integrated.