

Challenge

Long before the coronavirus outbreak, the University of Rochester desired to get a better sense of how many students, faculty and staff use its spaces.

When the pandemic hit, the university looked specifically for a technology solution that would provide students with a safe place to study and find community while adhering to social distancing requirements.

Solution

The university approached Occuspace to help them empower their students to make responsible choices about where to go on campus to avoid crowds.

Occuspace installed privacy-friendly occupancy tracking sensors throughout the Rush Rhees Library, one of the most visible and recognizable landmarks on the university's campus.

Students were also provided access to the company's free iOS and Android mobile app, Waitz, to view crowd levels in various floors of the library at any given time to plan when and where they wanted to go.



"When we were thinking about reopening in the fall, we thought a lot about what it means to de-densify. This technology gives us the ability to help our students make informed choices about where they study and when."

—Lauren Di Monte, Associate Dean of Learning, Research and Digital Strategies

Results

The library has been able to operate and manage their community spaces in a more intelligent and data-driven way thanks in part to Occuspace's crowd monitoring technology.

Their library staff is regularly notified when a certain space is nearing or exceeding safe capacity limits.

The technology has helped focus their building walkthroughs to ensure everyone is safely social distancing.