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Education

## Bentley details \$85M renovation of academic center

New upgrades will include an AI lab, a 3D printing lab and more



Image: DSK | Dewing Schmid Kearns Architects + Planners

Bentley's Adamian Academic Center has never had significant upgrades since it was built in the 1980s. A plan calls for an overhaul to also include modern needs for technology.

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By [Grant Welker](#) – Projects Reporter, Boston Business Journal  
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Bentley University is planning a major renovation of its academic center in what could be its biggest capital project since the school moved to Waltham in the 1960s.

The Adamian Academic Center hasn't had significant upgrades since it was built in the 1980s. That means it lacks the technological ability that today's students need and the collaborative spaces they prefer.

"It was ready for an overhaul anyway," said Paul Tesluk, Bentley's provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Instead of just tackling more behind-the-scenes needs, Bentley is planning a roughly \$85 million project that'll also address student and faculty needs.

Plans are to add one lab designed for using artificial intelligence, and another for 3D printing and collaborative work. Other spaces will be dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship, some of which will be incorporated into a new addition jutting out into the main campus quad.

A new cafe will include the first food options in that area of campus, and an auditorium will be renovated. The work will also address needed improvements in an aging building and include exterior work that'll help take better advantage of the building's hilltop location and the views it provides.

Construction is slated to start this spring and be complete in time for a fall 2027 opening.

The Adamian Academic Center, which stands opposite Bentley's library, is the campus's largest academic building with 120 or so faculty and staff offices as well as some classrooms.

Because of the building's size and importance to student and faculty work, university leaders spent the last year and a half poring over details for how best to make improvements, Tesluk said.

"We really saw this as a top priority," he said.

The planned new features will continue what Tesluk said is a plan to "future-proof" Bentley by preparing students for all the ways the workforce is changing, largely through technology. The academic center's new design will focus on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, he said, with an acronym — "tie" — that also happens to describe how each fits together.

"The connections across them is something we haven't done before," he said.