

Our Building Is Getting a New Electrical System

What to expect during an electrical system upgrade or replacement

- **What does electrical system upgrade or replacement mean?**
An electrical system upgrade or replacement can refer to a wide spectrum of work, anywhere from running a few wires to installing a new substation. Upgrades or replacements are required as demand for electricity in older buildings increases.
- **Why are we getting a new electrical system?**
Technology has changed dramatically since many of our current electrical systems were installed. The campus has grown and expanded its utilities grid and updated as needed for code compliance and load. Replacing old equipment provides opportunities for upgrades and expansions, such as adding computer labs or improving the mechanical systems. Increasing the capacity of the electrical system can help expand academic programs, improve occupant comfort, and lower energy costs.
- **Where does the money come from to install a new electrical system?**
The money to fund electrical systems most recently has come from the Deferred Maintenance program, established in 2006. The program is funded through:
 - *Certificates of Participation (COPS), 20 year certificates approved for sale by the Board of Trustees;*
 - *University Administration (UA) Reserves, periodic allotments from the University Administration, for combined programmatic and deferred maintenance projects on campus;*
 - *Academic Facility Maintenance Fee Assessment (AFMFA, a student fee, controlled by students and faculty advisors, that goes directly to repairing, reprogramming, and upgrading the academic buildings on the Urbana-Champaign campus.*

For more information regarding Deferred Maintenance, visit the website at: <http://www.fs.uiuc.edu/planning/deferredmaintenance/>
- **How long does it take to install an electrical system in an entire building?**
It depends on whether it is an upgrade or a replacement. The process may take longer in older buildings because of the variation in systems over the years.
- **Will there be any service interruptions?**
You can expect service interruptions during the course of an electrical system upgrade or replacement. Subscribers will be notified by email when scheduled interruptions are posted on the LAS Summer Construction Update page.
- **Will I need to relocate from my office or classroom? If so, for how long?**
Occupant displacement is avoided whenever possible. However, if new wiring must be installed, it may require access through ceilings or walls in offices and classrooms. You would be notified if that were to be necessary.
- **Will there be a lot of dust to deal with?**
Construction may generate some dust and debris. F&S and contractors minimize the amount by using HEPA-filtered power equipment, or high efficiency particulate air equipment. This type of equipment operates like a high-efficiency air filter to greatly reduce the amount of dust. The area will be thoroughly cleaned following the work and left in the same condition it was found.
- **How loud will it be during the work process?**
The noise of the mechanical equipment can get quite loud and does carry some distance which can be disruptive. F&S and contractors attempt to perform some of the noisier activities during times when the building is unoccupied. The probability is, however, everyone will experience at least some noise disruption.