Unit Facilities

The primary building housing the professional education unit is Visser Hall. Visser Hall is one of the newest buildings on campus. It has 10 regular classrooms, all of which are “smart” classrooms. These classrooms accommodate classes ranging in size from 24 to 60. In addition there is one large “smart” classroom that accommodates 124. The following departments are housed in Visser Hall: Department of Early Childhood/Elementary Teacher Education; Department of Instructional Design and Technology; Department of Psychology, Art Therapy, Rehabilitation, and Mental Health Counseling; and the Department of School Leadership/Middle and Secondary Teacher Education.

The Jones Conference Center accommodates large groups and can be used for a variety of purposes and sizes of groups; it also is a “smart” classroom facility. The Jones Conference Center has been upgraded with cameras and microphones to use the Panopto lecture capture system. Visser Hall also has a distance learning classroom, The Teachers College Resource Center housing curriculum and instructional materials, a reading laboratory, media laboratory, word processing and copy center, and separate PC and Mac computer labs (approximately 25 stations each). A number of computers are available in other areas, such as the Resource Center and the reading lab. One-third of the ground floor is filled with an atrium that provides space which is constantly used for informal gatherings and, occasionally, formal events.

Other major buildings that comprise the unit are the Earl Center that houses the Department of Special Education and School Counseling and Community Counseling Services on the upper level and the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence on the lower level; the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation building that houses the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; and the Center for Early Childhood Education which occupies the south end of Butcher Education Center. All faculty have private offices with computers and Internet access. Departments have office complexes with adequate space for staff support.

The Earl Center and the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Building have classrooms, computer labs, and specialized areas such as counseling rooms or resource centers. There are also computer labs and classrooms throughout the campus.

Since NCATE’s last visit in 2003, the ESU Child Development Center merged with the Butcher Preschool to form the Center for Early Childhood Education in 2004. The Center is licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide child care for children 12 months (and walking) through school age and is also licensed by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Service to serve as a provider.