



# Merced Campus Capital Program

UC Merced, the tenth and newest campus of the University of California system, is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a mission centered on access, equity, and student success. Located in one of the state's most underserved regions, UC Merced serves a student population that is predominantly first-generation, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and from historically underrepresented backgrounds. The campus is advancing a dynamic capital program that supports campus growth, sustainability, and community engagement through strategic investments in medical education, student housing, and research infrastructure.



**7**  
Active Projects



**\$507M**  
Active Projects Investment



**0**  
Completed Projects (FY 2024–25)



**\$0**  
Completed Projects Investment

## CFP Identified Funding

\$144 million in Capital Plan

### Priority Areas

- **Medical Education Building**

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- **Promise Housing Project**

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- **Classroom and Office Building III**

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### Key Metrics

- 478 new affordable student housing beds in construction

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- New 425 seat auditorium and two new 250+ seat lecture halls in construction

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- 301,261 ASF / 483,663 GSF in construction

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## Merced Campus Capital Program

### Capital Priorities

UC Merced's capital plan centers on three flagship projects: the Medical Education Building to train Valley physicians, Promise Housing adding 478 affordable beds, 9 RA beds, and an RA Director bed, and Classroom and Office Building III to expand academic capacity. Supporting priorities include student engagement facilities, athletics infrastructure, the advanced research facilities, and strategic real estate initiatives. These investments position UC Merced as the Central Valley's hub for education, healthcare training, and innovation while supporting enrollment growth and institutional maturation as a Carnegie R1 research university.



### Location-Specific Focus Areas

#### Serving California's Most Underserved Region

UC Merced uniquely serves the Central Valley, where 65% of students are first-generation and low-income, addressing critical gaps in healthcare access, higher education, and economic opportunity. The Medical Education Building partnership with UCSF will encourage local physicians to stay local, while affordable housing and new academic facilities support enrollment growth, and research investments leverage emerging opportunities from potential High-Speed Rail and Castle Air Force Base redevelopment.

### Recent Accomplishments

#### Entering a New Phase of Campus Development

Following the successful completion of Project 2020, UC Merced has entered a new phase marked by groundbreaking and active construction of three major projects: the Medical Education Building, Promise Affordable Student Housing Project, and Field Education and Research Center. The campus also completed a design-build competition for Classroom and Office Building III, expanding capacity to support the development and launch of over a dozen new academic programs.

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## Projects In Progress

### Major Construction Advancing On Schedule

UC Merced broke ground on the Medical Education Building in May 2024, initiated Promise Affordable Student Housing construction in April 2025, and began Field Education and Research Center work in early summer 2025. The Medical Education Building and Promise Housing expect completion by October 2026, while the Field Education and Research Center targets Fall 2025 completion. Despite supply chain volatility and rising costs, all projects remain on budget.

## Seismic Snapshot

### Limited Needs Due to Campus Age

As a relatively young campus, UC Merced has limited seismic retrofit needs. The primary seismic improvement project focuses on Wawona Field Station in Yosemite Valley. Construction to upgrade three field station facilities is underway and scheduled for Fall 2025 completion, bringing all into full compliance with UC Seismic Safety Policy.

## Restoration and Renewal Snapshot

### Future Assessment Planned

To be added subsequently as campus infrastructure matures and comprehensive assessment of restoration and renewal needs is completed.

### EXHIBIT 41. Active Projects Distribution by Budget Category

	Budget \$1M - \$10M	Budget \$10M - \$20M	Budget > \$20M	Total
Total Number	4	-	3	7
	57%	-	47%	100%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$21M</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$487M</b>	<b>\$507M</b>
	4%	-	96%	100%

*Note: Because of rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate parts.*



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## 2025-31 Outlook and Progress On Priorities

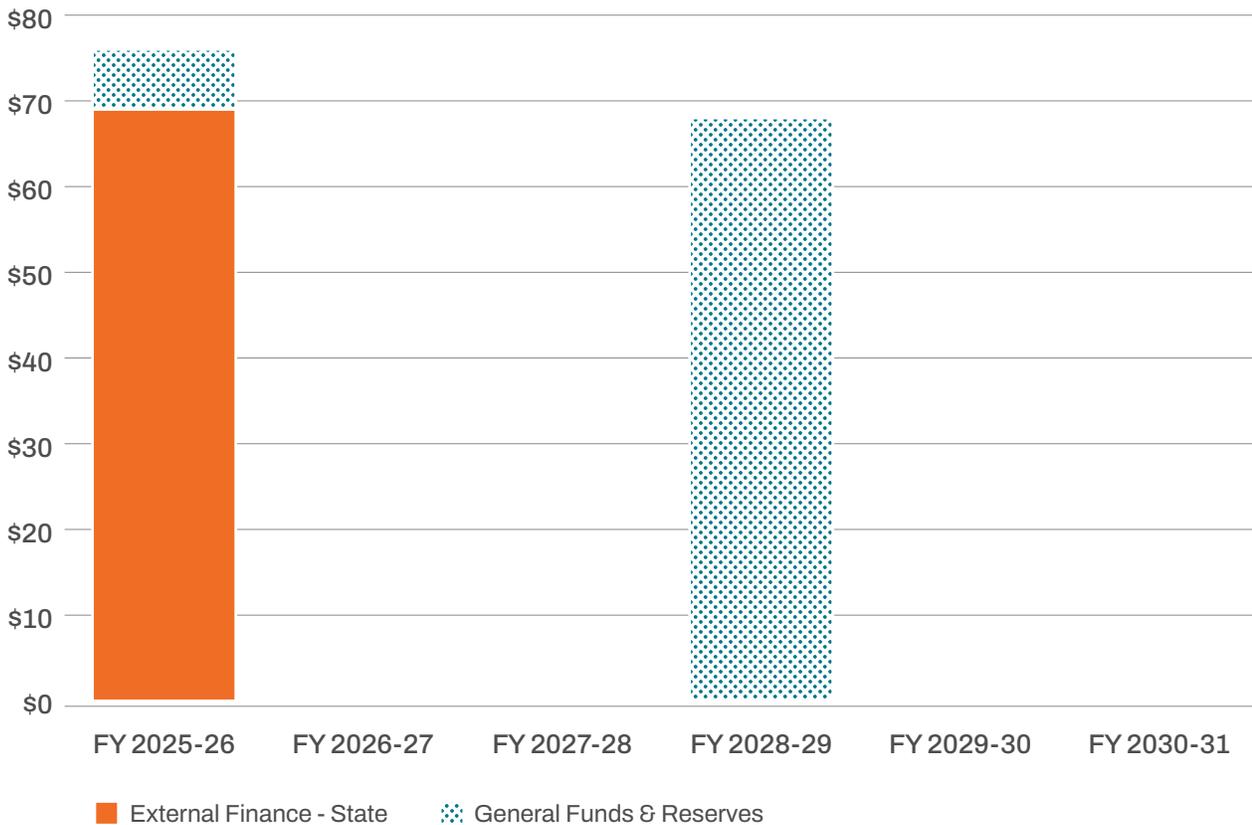
### Strategic Growth and Innovation Focus

UC Merced makes consistent progress on highest capital priorities while the 2025-31 Capital Financial Plan introduces updates including the Experimental Smart Farm program, Replacement Parking projects, and Campus Warehouse & Logistics Facility. Advanced research facilities to replace those previously located at Castle Airforce Base emerge as a major strategic initiative, aligned with Carnegie R1 designation and institutional maturation, while infrastructure assessment focuses on decarbonization goals and long-term sustainability.

## Unfunded Needs and Advocacy Priorities

UC Merced's highest priority facilities enhance student engagement and expand campus amenities. Planned projects include new recreational and athletic facilities, a student union, and a campus arena—each designed to support student life, foster community, and enrich the overall student experience while supporting the campus's continued growth and development in the Central Valley.

EXHIBIT 42. Proposed Capital Program Fund Sources (\$Ms)



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### Project Highlight

The new UC Merced Medical Education Building is a four-story, approximately 203,500 GSF facility strategically located at the southeast edge of campus. The building will serve as the flagship site for the SJV PRIME+ partnership among UC Merced, UCSF, and UCSF Fresno, with the shared goal of educating medical professionals from the San Joaquin Valley, to remain in and serve the Valley. Scheduled for completion in Fall 2026, the \$300 million structure supports UC Merced's mission to address the Central Valley's physician shortage by training locally committed healthcare professionals.

PROJECT NAME  
**UC Merced Medical  
Education Building**

TYPE  
**Steel-Frame  
Construction**

GSF  
**203,500 GSF**

BUILDING USE  
**Education and  
Research**

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE  
**October 2026**

PROJECT COST  
**\$300M**

CONSTRUCTION COST  
**\$239M**

PROJECT STATUS  
**In Construction**

ARCHITECT  
**ZGF Architects**

CONTRACTOR  
**Turner Construction**