

VIU HEALTH AND SCIENCE CENTRE

Nanaimo, BC | Completed 2018

Role of the firm: Structural Engineer of Record

Area: 74,400 ft² (6912 m²)

Budget: Approximately CA\$30 million

Architect: Perkins&Will

Client: Vancouver Island University (VIU)

Sustainable Features: LEED Gold

The Vancouver Island University Health and Science Centre (HSC) in Nanaimo, BC is a premier educational facility that provides students with a contemporary learning environment for their health and science programs. With its sophisticated and modern design, the building was completed in 2018 and designed to LEED Gold standards.

The HSC encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering connections between students, staff, and departments. The lower levels of the building house shared classrooms and support spaces, while the upper levels feature teaching labs and offices. The heart of the building is the central, day-lit atrium, which serves as a social hub, while the illuminated stairwells promote physical activity and provide visual connections to the atrium.

The structural design focused on minimizing the carbon footprint while meeting project-specific vibration requirements, using a highly efficient concrete flat slab system. Feature twin columns were design around the exterior to enhance the architectural vision for the project. The design places a strong emphasis on occupant well-being with natural light and ventilation being top priorities.

Sustainability was a driving force during construction, with a remarkable 97% of waste being diverted from landfills and locally sourced materials being used to reduce emissions. The building features low-emitting materials to improve air quality and prevent exposure to harmful particulates. By using energy-efficient fixtures and technologies, the building reduces its energy use and sets a shining example for future generations.

