

## SUMA Building Usage Study

**Days of the study:** 1 day, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm, 5pm, and 9pm

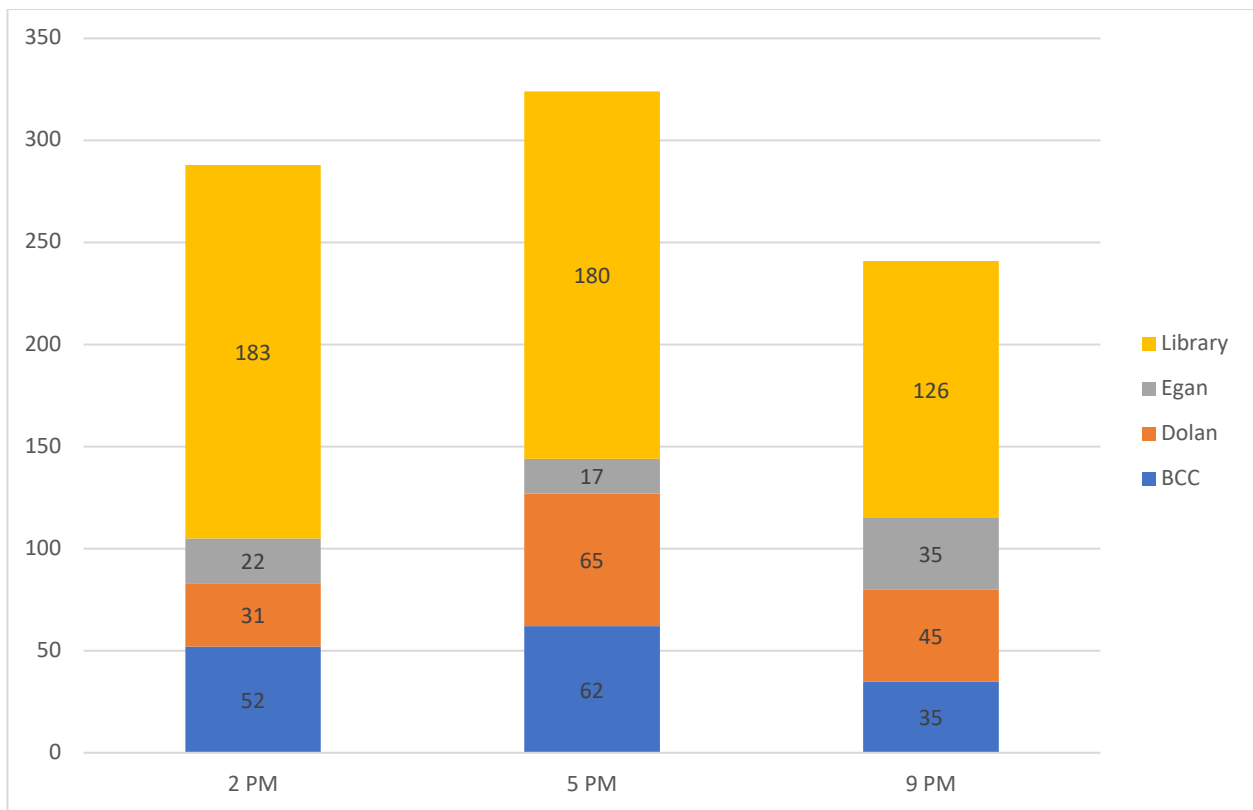
**Population:** Individuals within the Library, Egan, DSB, BCC

**Format:** SUMA: A tablet-based toolkit for collecting, managing and analyzing data about the usage of physical spaces.

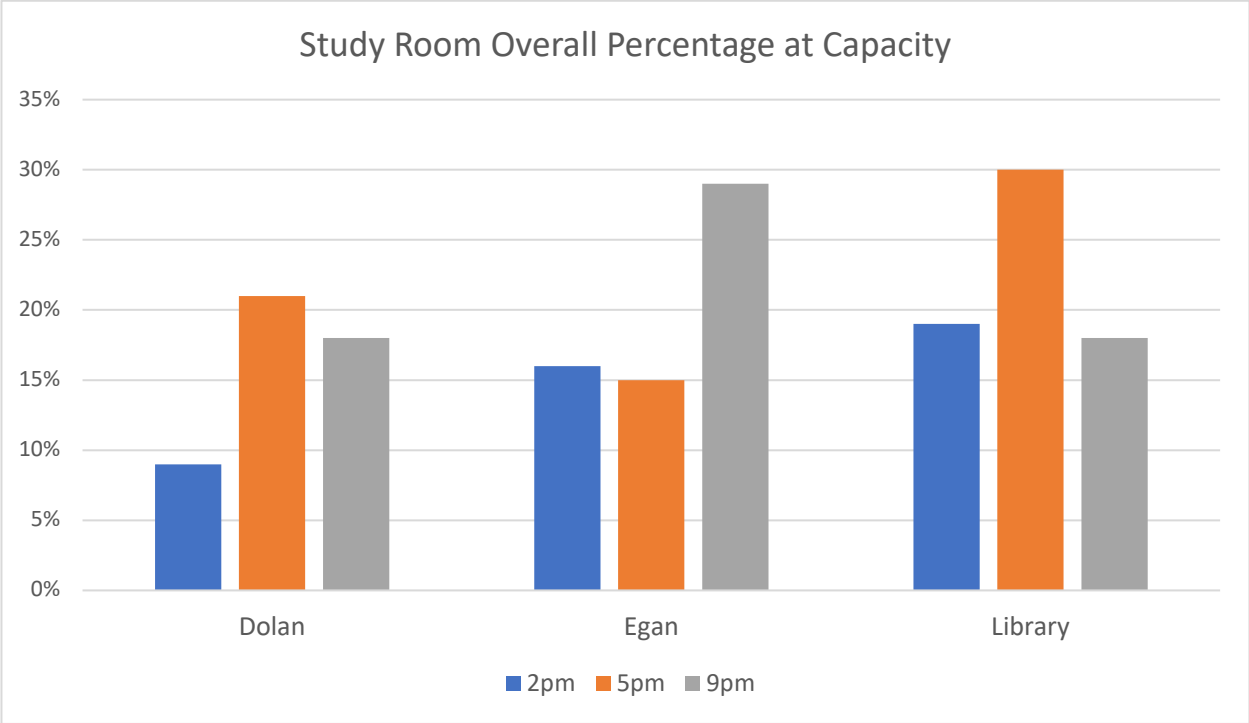
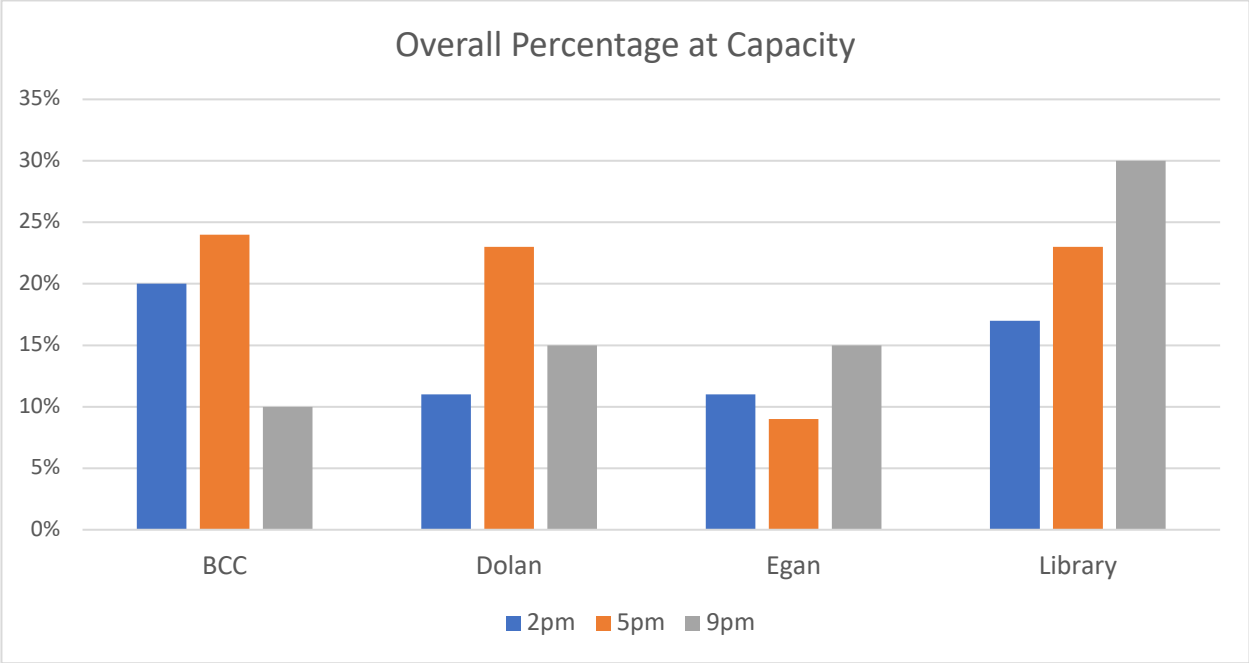
**Type:** Head count through observation that reports % of total occupancy

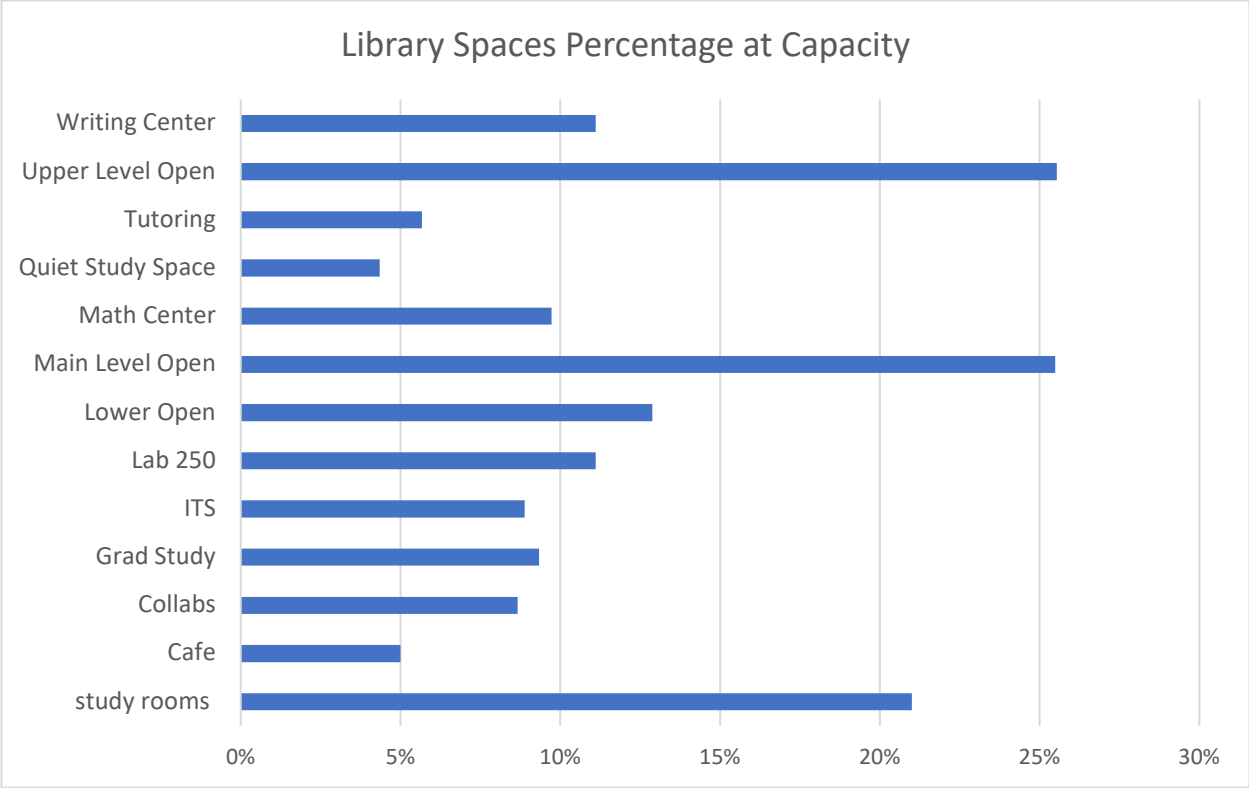
**Method:** Each person was assigned a location (Library, Egan, DSB, BCC) and given an iPad with each location and used a counter on the iPad to count the number of people in specific spaces in the building. The total seat count for each space we observed: Library 956, Egan 225, Dolan 292, BCC 297.

**Data:**

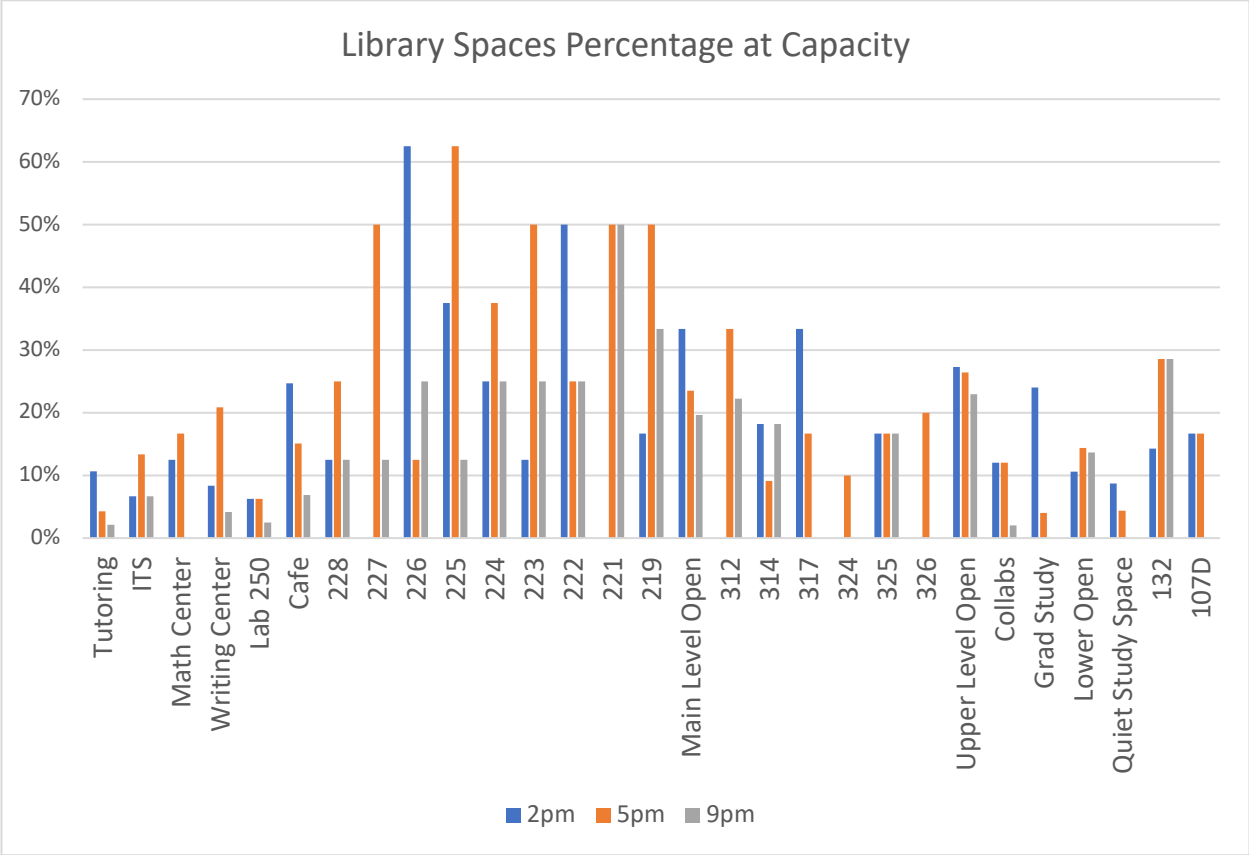


*Above:* Number of seats filled at each hour observed in all four buildings.





Above: This is the average occupancy of the three hours observed (all study rooms are combined).



### **Discussion of the Data:**

The Library was at 17% over the course of all 3 time periods, Egan was at 12%, DSB was at 16%, BCC at 18%. At first look these percentages seem close, but when considering total capacity, the Library's maximum capacity is considerably larger than the other buildings. As the data shows, in all the spaces we observed in each of the four buildings the average capacity did not go over 30%. All four buildings on average were the busiest at 5pm. We focused on capacity as opposed to individual location/furniture preferences.

The study was only done over the course of a single day. This limits our ability to identify trends over time and draw certain conclusions. We only looked at study rooms and open areas for Dolan and Egan. Only open areas were counted in BCC. We were able to count nearly all public spaces in the Library apart from the tutoring room at 2pm since it is in use by the Accessibility Office.

Study room usage was about the same between the Library, Egan, and Dolan. Students prefer study rooms to open space in Egan, whereas in Dolan it is more an even split. We can conclude that group study rooms on a whole are a popular study space for students.

In terms of the library space, the Innovation Lab is the most underutilized space in the library. We do not know conclusively why this is the case, but signage and promotion of the space could be a factor.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **Easy fixes:**

1. Study room signage needs to be updated. We noticed that study rooms tend to only have one person in them.
2. Further promotion of the quiet student study space could help students discover and use this space.

#### **Long term planning:**

1. Purchase new furniture for the lower level (esp. areas near 107c and near microfilm)
2. Further study on usage of academic buildings, maybe over the course of 5-7 days
3. Add more bathrooms to upper level

#### **Crazy idea?:**

1. Semester long space usage study
2. Addition of study rooms for individual users