

Mitigating Risks in Higher Education with Asset & Facilities Management Software

United Educators released their annual findings¹ from college and university leaders on the most pressing risks facing their institutions. From **enrollment** and **funding** to **deferred maintenance** and **operational pressures**, these challenges can have a massive impact on universities' ability to provide the high-quality experiences that students and staff expect.

That's why having the right asset & facilities management solution is crucial for higher ed institutions.

¹ [United Educators 2026 Top Risks Report](#)



Enrollment and retention

The Challenge

72% Higher education leaders who say low enrollment and retention numbers are the biggest risk their institutions face.

While students are increasingly drawn to campuses with modern and appealing facilities, colleges and universities are constantly facing competition from other institutions, as well as alternatives like online learning or even the decision to forego higher education altogether.

How Asset & Facilities Management Software Helps

- Ongoing preventive maintenance ensures facilities remain in top shape
- Increased workflow efficiency across campus operations reduces disruptions, keeps campuses attractive, and creates a better student experience
- Data-driven capital plans ensure funds are strategically allocated to events, facilities, and other areas that will attract students and increase engagement

Operational pressures

The Challenge

30% Higher education leaders who face operational pressures, including risks related to financial stability, their business model, and constraints on institutional processes.

With limited resources and financial instability, universities face mounting pressures to optimize operations without sacrificing quality or mission goals.

How Asset & Facilities Management Software Helps

- Improved tracking of maintenance costs and resource allocation can significantly reduce operational expenses.
- Quick access to real-time data and insights on facilities conditions and maintenance histories supports more informed decision-making that keeps facilities operating at peak condition
- Streamlined workflows ensure that maintenance staff can focus on high-priority tasks rather than managing reactive maintenance.

Deferred maintenance

The Challenge

27% Higher education leaders who say they are burdened by deferred maintenance of outdated facilities and a potential inability to meet new requirements.

Many colleges and universities struggle with deferred maintenance of aging infrastructure, which can pose a significant financial and operational risk as facilities fall behind in meeting modern standards. Having a [clear understanding of facility conditions](#) can minimize the need for costly repairs or even facility closures.

How Asset & Facilities Management Software Helps

- A comprehensive asset registry makes it easier to track asset conditions and prioritize necessary upgrades based on need.
- Ongoing preventive maintenance keeps facilities operating at a high level and reduces the need for surprise repair costs or expensive replacements
- Data-driven insights simplify the budgeting process and make it easier to create long-term capital plans for future upgrades and deferred maintenance

Funding

The Challenge

24% Higher education leaders who say they are concerned about funding and risks to their core revenue streams.

As funding sources become more constrained, universities are under pressure to maintain financial stability. Revenue risks are heightened by reliance on tuition, government funding, donations.

How Asset & Facilities Management Software Helps

- Real-time asset and facilities tracking allows for more informed budgeting, ensuring optimum resource allocation.
- Managing and optimizing the use of campus facilities for external events, conferences, and other revenue-generating activities increases funding and ensures maximize ROI when space is rented.
- Data-driven insights simplify the budgeting process and make it easier to create long-term capital plans for future upgrades and deferred maintenance
- Detailed reports that showcase the improved condition of facilities can help justify funding needs and secure additional donations or grants for future projects.

Conclusion

Data-driven insights make it easier for higher education institutions to manage their facilities by providing visibility around asset conditions and budgets, helping to simplify the capital planning process and prioritize investments for upgrades and maintenance.

This strategic approach addresses both deferred maintenance and aging infrastructure, while ensuring resources are used effectively for long-term growth. With better decision-making, finance and facilities leaders can prioritize key projects, improve efficiency, and optimize funding to enhance campus engagement and outcomes.

Learn how Brightly's complete asset lifecycle management solution can help optimize facilities operations and boost your campus image. Download the "[Complete Facility Management Solution for Higher Education](#)" datasheet.

