**How UNH Room Capacities Were Determined To Accommodate Social Distancing**

There are several factors that went into determining occupant loads for specific spaces. The University of New Hampshire is considered a “Business Occupancy” under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code 101 (LSC). NFPA 101 LSC Chapter 7, Table 7.3.2.1 outlines occupant load factors for a business occupancy as 100 square feet per person or 50 square feet per person for concentrated business use and lab rooms. These numbers are used throughout campus buildings for general business areas and labs but not for classrooms, lecture halls or assemblies.

The New Hampshire State Fire Marshal’s office in cooperation with the Durham Fire Department allows for 20 square feet per person for classrooms. This number is typically used for educational (K-12) type occupancies and not business occupancies

Occupant loads also included the 6 feet rule. The 6 feet rule came from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) definition of Social Distancing, also called “physical distancing,” of keeping space between people. To practice social or physical distancing: Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people.

UNH **Classroom** capacities were determined based upon the State Fire Marshal’s 20 square feet per person number while incorporating the CDC’s 6 feet for social distancing. Numbers were also determined based upon the varieties of classroom seating/desks and any significant structures within the room (Large shelve units, lockers). Occupancy numbers incorporated the following;

* 6 feet of distance was included at the front of each classroom for instructor space.
* 6 feet of distance was created at the entrance of each room for students to travel in and out.
* 6 feet of distance was created between each seat/desk at front, back and sides.\*

\*In some cases a “zig-zag” seating pattern was used to allow the most seats as safely possible.

UNH **Assembly Lecture Rooms/Halls** capacities were determined based in some cases of fixed seating and others with moveable seating but fixed tables while incorporating the CDC’s 6 feet for social distancing. Several additional occupant load factors are listed for Assembly occupancies without fixed seating.  Unconcentrated or less concentrated use (15 net square feet per person) may have tables and chairs. Numbers were also determined based upon any significant structures within the room (Large shelve units, lockers). Occupancy numbers incorporated the following;

* 6 feet of distance was included at the front of each classroom for instructor space.
* 6 feet of distance was created at the entrance of each room for students to travel in and out.
* Distancing was created at each aisle to accommodate as much social distancing as possible. This meant that aisle seats were kept empty.
* 6 feet of distance was created between each seat at front, back and sides. Rows were skipped in fixed seat assembly and lecture rooms to accommodate this. Most fixed seat rooms allowed 1 occupied seat then 3 unoccupied seats based on 6 feet social distancing.

**UNH Large Open Areas**

For the University of New Hampshire occupant loads for larger areas (Memorial Field, Hamel Recreation Gym, Granite State Room) numbers was based upon 1 person for every 36 square feet (6x6). Keep in mind that this is a gross number and does not take into effect the loss of space for seating which may vary. The 6 feet rule came from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) definition of Social Distancing, also called “physical distancing,” of keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing: Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people.

**UNH Large Assembly Occupancies (Wildcat Stadium, Whittemore Center)**

Following NFPA 101 LSC for Assembly occupancies with fixed seating, the seats are counted to determine the occupant load.  Seating for benches without dividing arms (for example, bleachers) is normally calculated at 18 linear inches of seating length per person. Some fixed seats are wider than the 18 inches mentioned above. Occupancy numbers incorporated the following;

* 6 feet of distance was created between each seat at front, back and sides. Rows were skipped in fixed seat assemblies to accommodate this. Most fixed seat rows allowed 1 occupied seat then 3 unoccupied seats based on 6 foot social distancing.
* Distancing was created at each aisle to accommodate as much social distancing as possible. This meant that aisle seats were kept empty.
* 6 feet of distance was created between each seat at front, back and sides.