

FEATURED PROJECT

Valencia College School of Public Safety Campus Master Plan

In 2007, C.T. Hsu + Associates master planned Valencia College's public safety campus and the design of its first building, the 77,000 SF Criminal Justice Institute. Fast forward a decade, and the firm returns to Valencia College to help plan the transformation of the 58-acre campus into a new School of Public Safety (SPS).

Now, more than ever, it is vital for public safety professionals to be prepared for threats as wide-ranging as terrorist attacks to cyber threats, and targets as diverse as public transit to tourist attractions. The Valencia College School of Public Safety includes three major programs – Criminal Justice, Fire Rescue, and Safety and Security – designed to train and cross-train the next generation of public safety professionals using an integrated team approach, state-of-the-art technology and the latest in simulation training.

Working in association with Dewberry, a national architecture, engineering and planning firm with specialty capabilities in public safety planning and design, CTH+A led Valencia and its industry partners – a diverse group of regional public safety agencies – through a series of programming and master planning workshops to define the future of the SPS campus.



Working together, the 60-person work group established the physical aspects for a world-class interdisciplinary education and training facility that will guide the development of the new campus master plan. Following discussions and refinement of the prioritized program elements, educational and training components, the design team developed several master plan alternatives. Three concepts were presented to the stakeholder group for evaluation, with one concept selected for further refinement.

The final master plan fulfills the School of Public Safety's objectives and goals for a campus that houses a variety of academic programs and professional training components with a mix of traditional instructional facilities, high liability training facilities, and joint-use/cross training opportunities. Major components are: new classroom and lab buildings; a conferencing facility; and indoor simulation training spaces including an EOC, shooting range, multi-story tactical facility and 3-bay fire station. Outdoor training components include an agility training area, drill field, urban search and rescue props, vehicle and machinery rescue props, live fire training props and a multi-street "scenario village" for joint interdisciplinary operations training.



CTH+A's higher education design portfolio also includes a joint-use facility for Valencia College with the University of Central Florida. The landmark 100,000 SF University Center earned a LEED Gold designation from the U.S. Green Building Council as well as awards from the Florida Educational Facilities Planners Association for college design, and an award of merit for sustainable design and award of honor from the American Institute of Architects – Orlando.

In the public safety sector, the firm has designed more than 25 other projects for police, fire and emergency operation center facilities throughout Central Florida.