

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



2025 Annual Report

for the

Department of Environmental Health & Safety

From the Assistant Vice President for Environmental Health & Safety

For fiscal year 2025 (FY 2025), the Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) was busy supporting the expanded research and growth of the university. For the eighth year in a row, the university experienced record enrollment (40,969) and record research expenditures of \$289,000,000.

To support this record growth, EHS has continued to work to identify and control workplace and environmental risks through its activities. These activities included reconciling all hazardous chemicals to verify the chemical inventory maintained to support research and teaching. Also, properly managing, transporting, and disposing of more than 27 tons of hazardous waste, including more than 600 lbs. of radioactive legacy waste that has been on our inventory for more than 30 years.

Our offices worked collaboratively with other divisions and departments to resolve issues, such as partnering with the Office of Emergency Management to replace end-of-life automated external defibrillators for units older than 10 years.

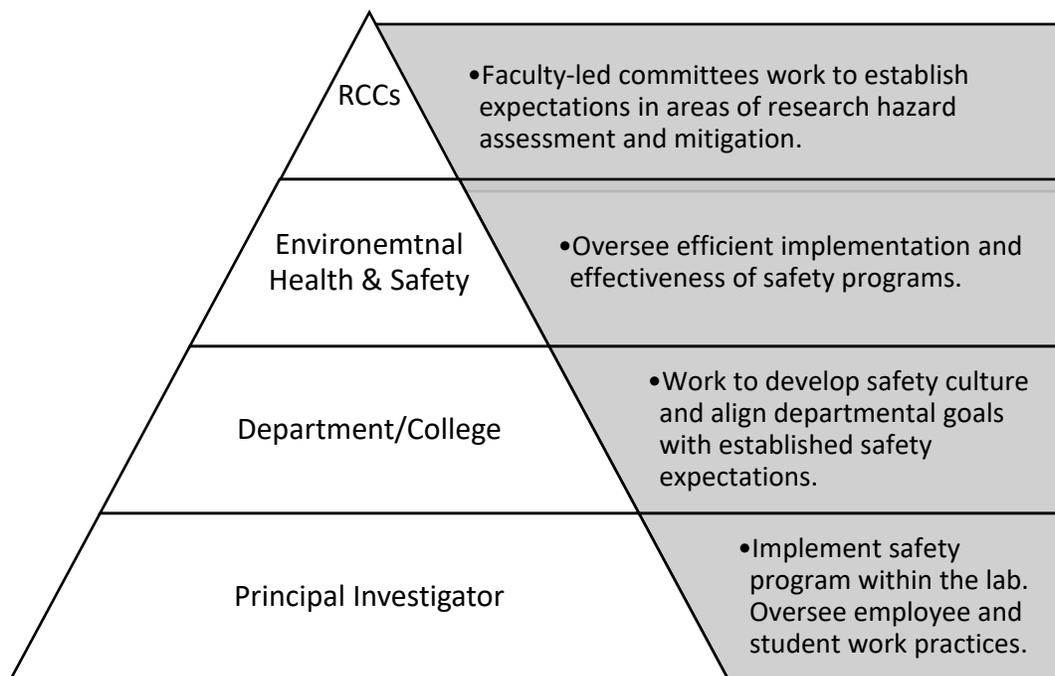
EHS also worked with the Office of Risk Management & Compliance to fully implement an online reporting and tracking system for all campus incidents and injuries. This system will notify EHS when an injury or incident occurs and help us track trends in data to develop risk-reduction strategies.

We look forward to FY 2026 and the opportunity to support the University's growth and its programs.

Matt Roe, Assistant Vice President for Environmental Health & Safety

Academic & Research Safety

The Academic & Research Safety section encompasses multiple programs, including Biological Safety, Radiation and Laser Safety, Chemical Hygiene, and Physical Hazards, that focus on reducing injuries from academic activities. The Academic Safety program is implemented collaboratively, with EHS as a knowledgeable partner and leader in developing these programs.



Academic safety program framework.

Highlights:

Safety Surveys

The Academic & Research Safety section conducted inspections of all research spaces and certified all fume hoods and safety showers. Additionally, we continued a multimedia inspection regimen established in 2023, with all academic areas inspected simultaneously during the annual announced inspections. The university achieved an 84% closure rate for corrective actions.

Laboratory Safety

For the 2025 fiscal year, this section was tasked and completed a required five-year reconciliation of all hazardous chemicals in our university's chemical inventory. This included scanning and confirming the physical locations of all inventoried hazardous chemicals. Additionally, the section began the process of initial monitoring for methylene chloride exposure with university facilities to establish regulated areas and develop an exposure control plan required by the Environmental Protection Agency. It

is anticipated that this monitoring will be completed during the next academic year, with the exposure control plan completed and implemented by the May 2027 deadline.

Biological Safety

The biological safety section worked with the Institutional Biosafety Committee to develop and codify committee procedures and policies to better define responsibilities and deadlines for protocol review and oversight. They were able to electronically review all protocols. Additionally, the section supported efforts to integrate USDA permitting and plant biocontainment for an expanding genetically modified plant research program.

Radiation Safety

The radiation safety section disposed of over 600 lbs. of legacy radioactive waste under the supervision of the Texas Department of State Health Services. This represents a significant reduction in radioactive inventory, much of which had been held by the university since the 1980s. This waste disposal represented a significant investment in the program and an effort to minimize institutional risk and increase regulatory compliance.

Occupational Safety

The Occupational Safety section creates and manages programs designed "to ensure so far as possible every working man and woman... safe and healthful working conditions" (Occupational Safety and Health Act 1970). These programs focus on proactive hazard control in the work environment through elimination, communication, and management.

Highlights:

Operations Safety

The department continued to develop collaborative programs and policies with the Operations division. Three university operating policies for asbestos compliance and abatement, ladder safety, and hot work management were collaboratively reviewed and updated with Operations personnel and EHS. This represents the fruition of a multi-year interdivisional partnership.

Shop Safety

The occupational safety section reviewed and updated the shop safety inspection program checklist to more thoroughly capture and document relevant risks and issues within shops and studios.

Automated External Defibrillators

The occupational safety section was able to deploy 51 newly purchased replacement automated external defibrillators (AED) through collaboration with Emergency

Management. These AED units were needed to replace existing units that were more than 10 years old.

Environmental Protection

The Environmental Protection section focuses primarily on compliance with federal and state environmental regulations. In addition to ensuring the University adheres to compliance requirements, Environmental Protection provides several services to the campus, including:

- Chemical management,
- Hazardous chemical and infectious waste disposal,
- Surplus chemical redistribution,
- Universal Waste and electronic equipment recycling,
- Pollution prevention and waste minimization, and
- Training and education related to waste.

Air compliance responsibilities include permitting, testing, and reporting air pollution sources associated with the Texas Tech University Federal Operating Permit, and reporting annual greenhouse gas emissions from the campus. Water compliance activities include inspection, permitting, and reporting associated with stormwater runoff, fuel storage tanks, and sanitary sewer discharges, as well as the management and oversight of the University's four public water systems. These services protect not only individuals on campus but also the Lubbock and Amarillo communities.

Highlights:

- Assisted in sustainably recycling more than 25 tons of university waste materials and appropriately disposing of more than 27 tons of hazardous waste while containing costs to within five-year average expenditures.
- During FY 2025, Texas Tech University maintained a "satisfactory" environmental record during all regulatory inspections.

In FY 2025, the section safely conducted over 900 hazardous waste pick-ups and collected more than 50,000 lbs. of hazardous waste, which was safely managed, transported, and disposed of at a permitted facility.

Outreach and Training

The Outreach and Training section directs community engagement programs on safety and develops and distributes practical safety training and other informational materials to support departmental safety programs. This section aims to educate the university community about our safety programs and to engage faculty, staff, and students in learning opportunities and initiatives that support a continuously improving safety culture.

Highlights:

President's Departmental Excellence in Safety Award

The sixth annual Presidential Departmental Excellence in Safety Award was awarded in FY 2025 to the Department of Biological Sciences. The recipient was chosen based on the departmental achievements in safety programs through a competitive review and award process. Many applicant departments made significant progress in department-led safety initiatives throughout the process.

The award is supported by the Office of the President and the Office of Research and Innovation. The funds allow the recipient department to further its safety mission.



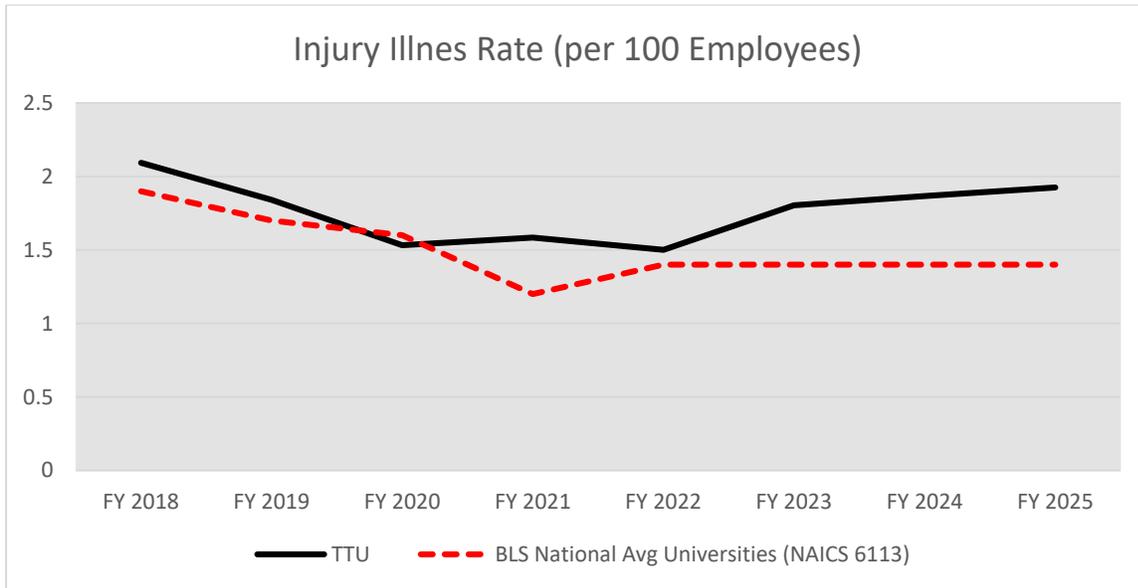
Left to right: Provost Ron Hendrick, Steve Allsup, Dr. Nick Smith, Dr. Corey Brelsford, Dr. Catherine Wakeman, President Lawrence Schovanec

Training

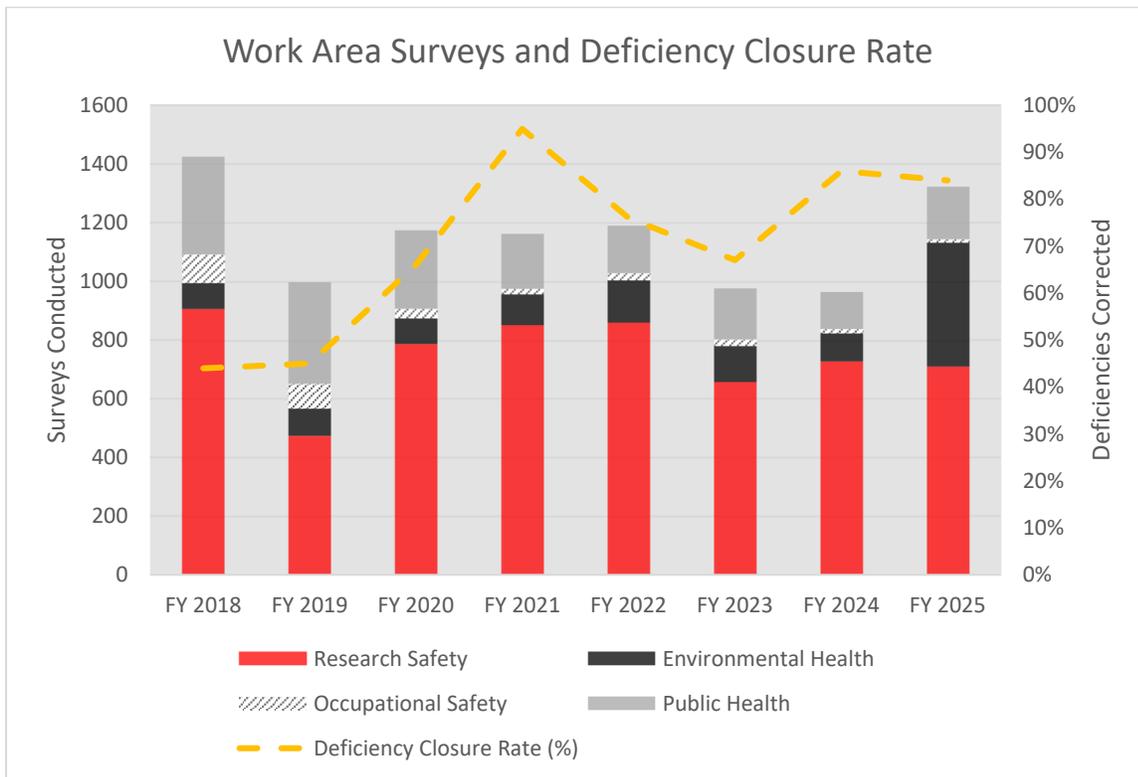
The outreach and training section made in-person training a priority during FY 2025 and is proud to have delivered a record number of individuals trained through face-to-face, classroom-based training. With more than 2,400 individuals trained through classroom-based training and more than 21,000 individuals trained online, the section has trained more individuals than at any time in the department's history.

Department Metrics

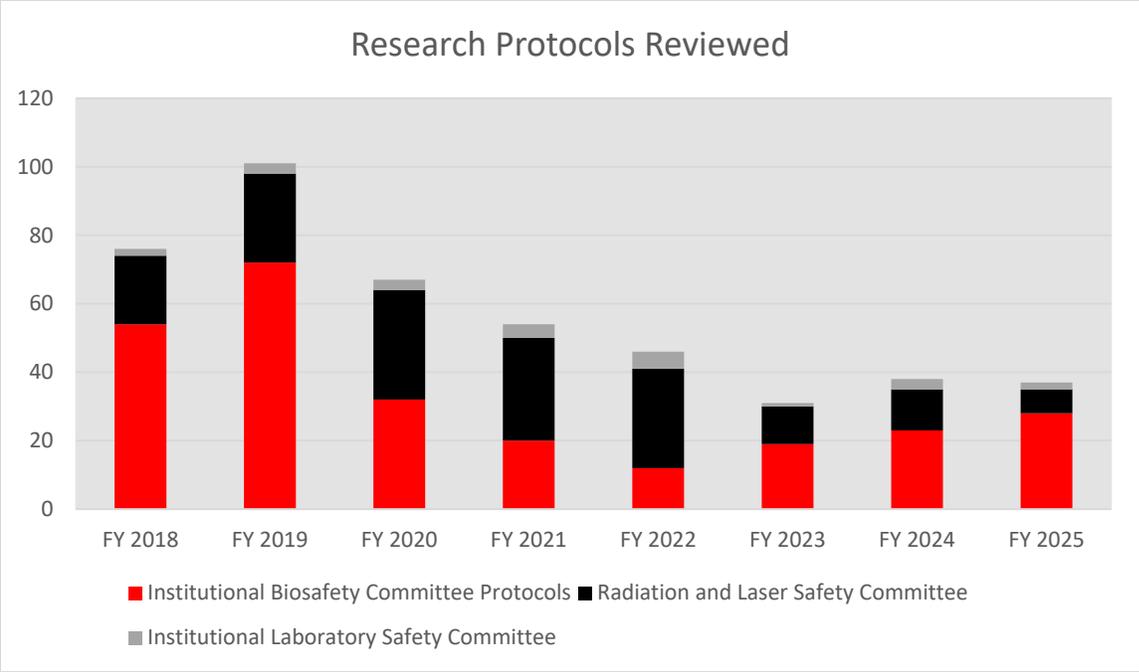
Risk Management:



Injury/Illness rate per 100 employees compared to the National Average of Universities from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

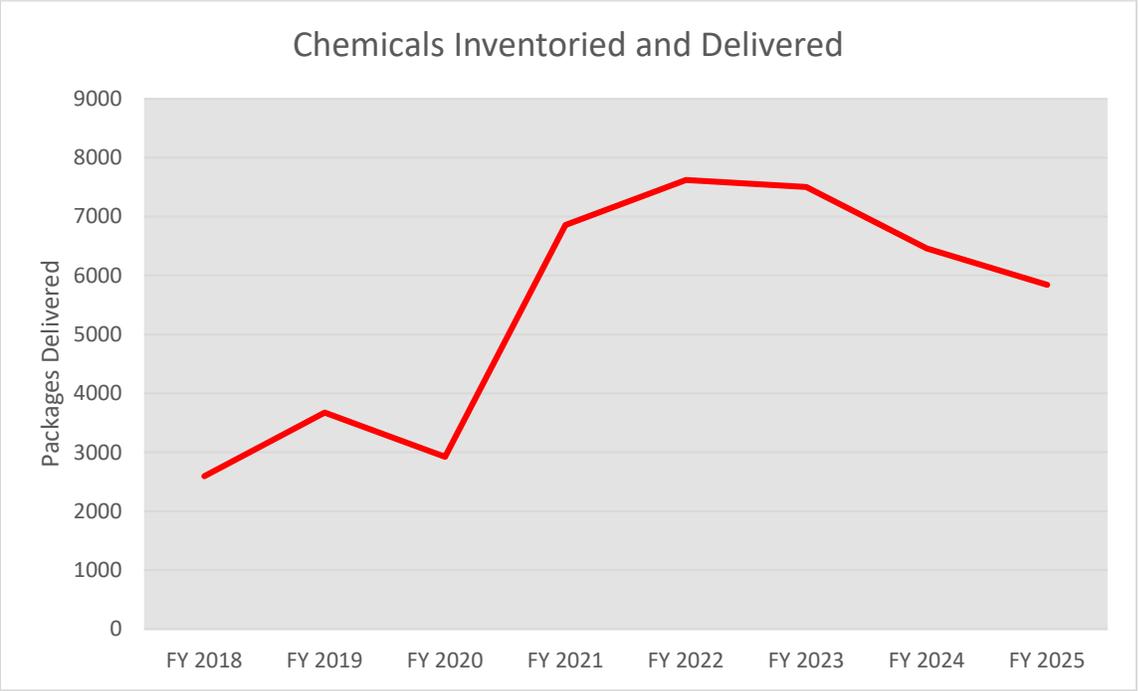


Work area surveys conducted and deficiency closure rate.

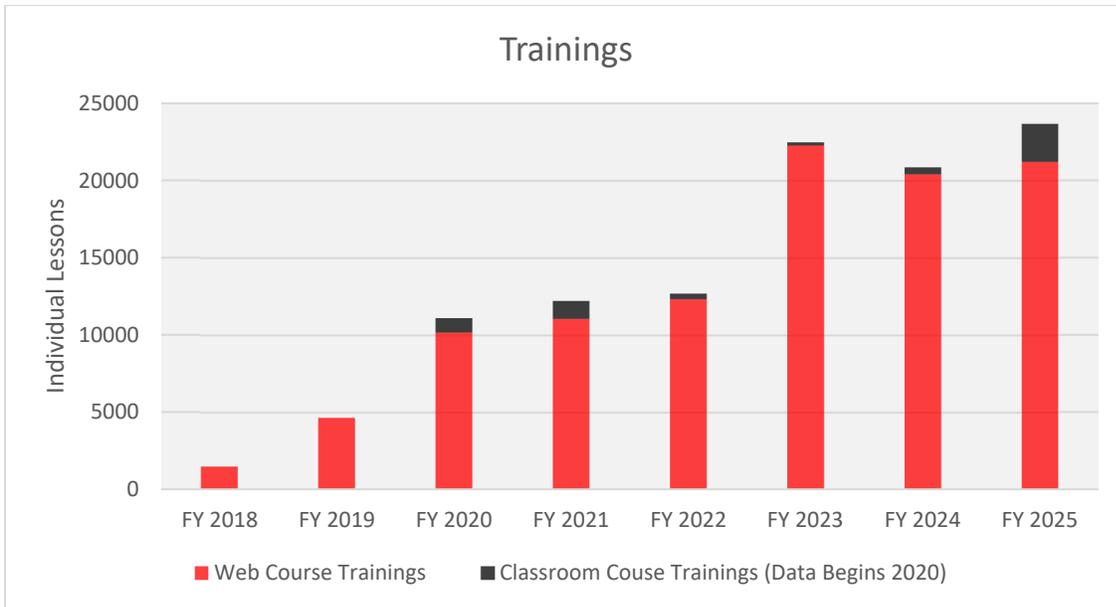


Institutional compliance committee research protocols reviewed.

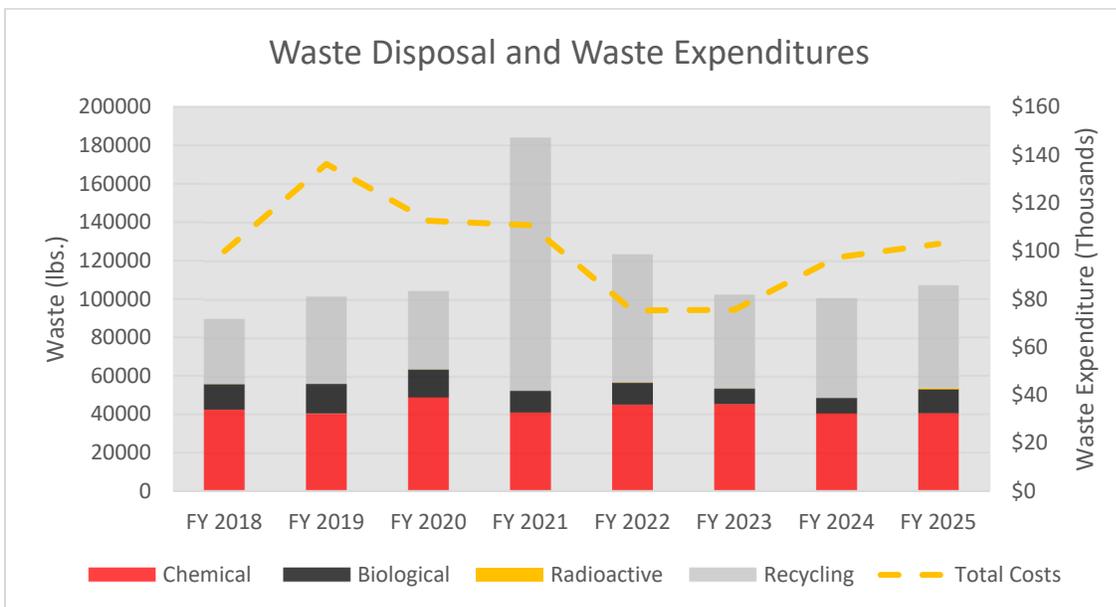
Services:



Chemicals received and entered the online chemical inventory delivered to academic work areas by EHS personnel. EHS Academic Safety maintains online chemical inventories for all academic work areas on campus.

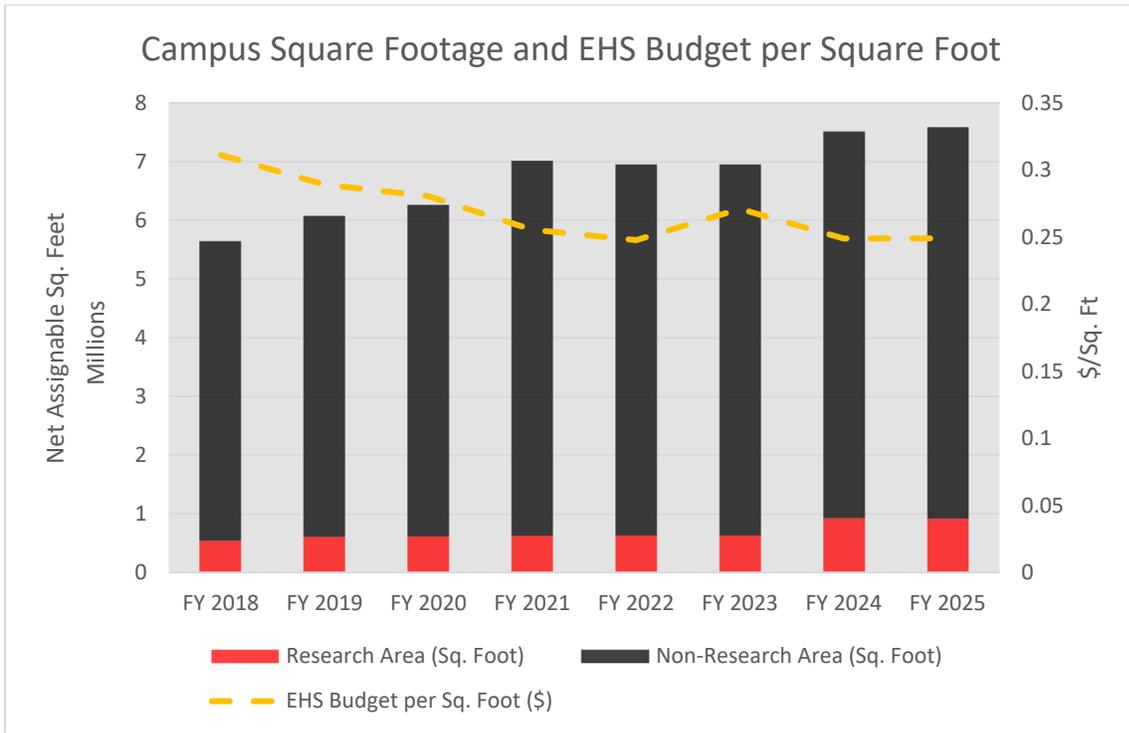


Individual training session enrollments over FY 2018-2025. FY 2020 began tracking in-person class attendance.



Waste disposal and waste expenditures.

Finances:



Campus square footage and EHS budget per square foot.