

## Get Healthy: New Student Health Center hopes to offer vision, dental and massage

by Wesley Moots Sep 29, 2014 4:40 pm

What used to be an open lawn and barbecue pits is now home to the construction site of the new Student Health Center. Construction began in June 2013 and has an estimated completion date in 2015.

Located at Seventh Street and Paseo de San Carlos, the new health center is planning to offer new services which may include dental, vision and massage services to students, according to Student Health Services Director Roger Elrod.

The construction project was announced in February 2013 to the public on [blogs.sjsu.edu](http://blogs.sjsu.edu). The project was said to cost \$25 million and would be completed this December.

Most recently, the cost of the project has been listed on [sjsu.edu/fdo](http://sjsu.edu/fdo) as \$36.5 million and project completion in February of next year.

The cost of the new health center is being covered by student health fees, according to [sjsu.edu](http://sjsu.edu)'s blog.

"I think FD&O is aiming for a late March completion of construction," Elrod said. "Within Student Affairs, we are telling our staff and students to anticipate an end of May move."

The new building will offer space for 70 employees and 20 student assistants according to [blogs.sjsu.edu](http://blogs.sjsu.edu) — 20 more employed positions than is offered at the current health center.

Current services offered to students by the health center include physical therapy, x-rays, an in-house pharmacy, treatments for conditions, injuries, illness and a family planning program.

Elrod said that space is being made in the new building for massage, vision and dental services.

The plan is to offer dental care shortly after opening the new health center, and after observing how well this does, they will "consider when and how to establish the other two," Elrod said.

Elrod said they are introducing the services one at a time to allow for the handling of complications and to ensure high-quality and efficient services.

Josh Joel, a junior business management major, works at the Event Center box office where he can see the ongoing construction of the new health center.

Joel wears glasses and thinks that having an optometrist and vision services on campus would be convenient.



"It would depend on the costs of the services, but the fact that it would be available would be cool," Joel said.

In order to accommodate for these new positions and services, the new health center will be 30 percent larger than the current one, according to the proposal for the new health center.

The proposal for the new health center places the size of the center as 52,000 gross square feet, a nearly 12,000 gross square feet increase from the current (40,060 gross square feet).

The design for the new health center was created by Blach Construction and Ratcliff Architects, according to [blach.com](http://blach.com).

According to the Blach Construction website, "The SHC building will serve as a gathering place for students, support a culture of wellness and promote active student life."

The plans for the new health center include using sustainable design principles, including optimizing energy performance, maximum use of daylight and water-efficient landscaping, according to the proposal submitted to the San Jose City Council.

The progress of the construction can be observed via live webcam updates, which posts a new photo of the project grounds every 30 minutes at [m.blach.workzonecam.com/blach](http://m.blach.workzonecam.com/blach).

The original health center was built in 1958, nearly six decades before SJSU is currently scheduled to open the replacement.

Christopher Brown, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations, said that in addition to the new services which may be offered, all of the services currently offered at the Health Center will be available at the new building.

The current health center is located on the eastern side of campus at Paseo de San Carlos and Ninth Street.

The current health center is not planned to close until the new SHC is completed.