Throughout the data gathering, interview and analysis phases of the Master Plan, an iterative analytical planning process begins to take place. This process can be characterized as a constant shift between balancing needs with physical constraints while beginning to identify logical patterns and opportunities for the University to expand. As the needs of various departments, student services and residence life are articulated and quantified and the analysis of existing facilities, campus open space, transportation begins to come into focus, the analysis begins to merge into a series of specific opportunities for growth and expansion.

Issues such as enrollment projections, balancing new construction with facility renovation, selective replacement and upgrading to contemporary standards are evaluated on a pedagogical, social, cultural technological and environmental basis. The results of these analysis exercises attempt to answer such basic questions as how much growth, where should it occur and what are the opportunities and constraints that will affect these recommendations.

Leading up to the identification of areas for growth, the campus analysis phase of the master plan helped to give shape to principles of growth, without necessarily making specific proposals. The diagrams produced during the analytical phase were used as a framework for subsequent plans for expansion once the program needs were better understood and evaluated. During the analytical phase a number of general campus growth principles were established including:

- The desire to improve the main campus entrance and arrival sequence and the identification of the entrance
as a potential site for a new, publicly oriented facility

- The impetus to create a new face to campus by expanding the campus center toward the east. This includes the potential to establish a pattern for expansion between the campus center and the east residence halls and the creation of a new pedestrian quad between the main campus and the ring road.

- The recognition that the majority of academic expansion potential lies to the west side of the main campus between Group II, Dion and the Ring Road, expanding upon existing patterns established by the construction of Violette and Textiles

- The sense that these same patterns of western expansion might also be applied to the Library along with opportunities to infill the space beneath the Group II Lecture Halls.

- The goal of siting future phases of residential growth closer to the central campus, within a 5 minute walking
radius, and even within the ring road

- The desire to improve the Athletic campus through a more efficient field layout, and the exploration of the potential for new facilities to serve as a new front door for the Athletics. This is also supported by the recommendation to improve connections between the campus and athletics and to site future housing closer to the athletic complex.

- The identification of areas of the campus landscape that should be preserved as open space and a strategy for improving the condition of these spaces. These include the pine grove behind Group I, the open vista to Cedar Dell Pond and the central campus quadrangle.

- Coupled with this principle of preserving open space is the notion that the architecture that defines the central campus should also be thought of as a preservation zone with the exception of some potential modest interventions in front of the campus center and beneath the lecture halls.

- The recognition of landscape areas on campus that are in need of significant landscape improvements, not only because of their particularly inhospitable environment, but also because of their prominence and symbolic importance within the campus experience. Such areas include the space in front of the library entrance, the
space in front of the campus center and lecture halls, the area to the east of the campus center at the end of Centennial Drive and the front entry sequence.

These preliminary conclusions to the analytical phase of the master plan established a framework that was used for specific proposals for growth and improvements. The findings of the space utilization studies, the data collected from interviews and discussions amongst the steering committee are all synthesized into the more formal recommendations for expansion delineated in the following chapter. For the purposes of the exercise, some of the proposals are informed by preliminary programs created solely for planning purposes. Some expansion proposals, however, did not utilize specific program information but were intended more as planning exercises in spatial arrangement and massing. In all cases,
the recommendations presume that more detailed programming analysis should be conducted prior to executing actual design work. However, each of the proposed areas for growth do reflect a general sense of relative square footage, program and siting as informed by the master planning process.

One of the most critical components of the campus analysis involved obtaining the wetland information for the campus and applying a 100’ no-build buffer to the areas identified as wetlands. While the information obtained by the state Geographical Information Systems database is useful for planning purposes, it is important to note that any project development would require a more detailed on site assessment to identify actual wetland boundaries. The wetlands and buffer zone diagram developed for the master plan was particularly important in identifying the limitations on growth opportunities outside the ring road.