# Using Astra Schedule Course Analysis and Lecture Room Utilization Reports to Support Capacity Management and Efficient Scheduling

Space Management has highlighted 4 strategies that will help the University maximize facility utilization, minimize scheduling conflicts and bottlenecks, and facilitate an optimal class schedule for student success. Key Astra Schedule reports support each of these strategies and are designed to help colleges and departments be proactive with changes to current and upcoming class schedules.

## Key Strategies for Improving Classroom Utilization:

- **Strategy 1** Spread class offering out over the entire scheduling week.
- **Strategy 2** Reduce unused seats by scheduling classes into appropriately sized rooms.
- **Strategy 3** Minimize class offerings that use non-standard meeting patterns.
- **Strategy 4** Reduce the offering of unnecessary sections.

## Process Steps and Astra Schedule Reports Used to Address These Key Strategies:

- 1. Identify the campus primetime (times/days when classes are disproportionally compacted, such as M-F, 9am-2pm) and less-utilized timeslots outside of primetime hours that colleges and departments can offer sections. (**Strategy 1**)
  - a. Percent of Rooms In Use by Day and Time
  - b. Percent of Rooms In Use by Room Size
- 2. Identify room type/size bottlenecks during prime time. (Strategy 1)

Note: 80% or higher utilization is considered a bottleneck, potentially limiting future growth potential.

- a. Space Utilization by Room Type and Size with Primetime
- 3. Identify prime time usage (prime ratio) by subject area. (Strategy 1)

Note: Campus scheduling standards allow 65% or less 3-unit lecture courses to be offered during prime time.

a. Prime Time Usage Ratio

4. Identify when rooms are used for classes (and when they are open) by time of day/day of week. (Strategy 1)

Note: CO target average utilization is 35 Weekly Station Hours (WSH) for lecture rooms; 23.4 WSH for lower division labs, and 17.6 WSH for upper division/graduate labs.

- a. Scheduled Hours By Room and Time of Day
- 5. Review seat fill by room type/size and subject. (Strategy 2)

Note: CO target average station fill is 66% or greater for lecture rooms.

- a. Space Utilization by Room Type and Size with Seat Fill
- b. Low Seat Fill Sections by Subject
- 6. Review prime time usage and seat fill for specific buildings and rooms. (Strategy 1 and Strategy 2)

Note: CO target average lecture room utilization is 75% during the 70 hour scheduling week. CO target average station fill is 66% or greater for lecture rooms.

- a. Space Utilization by Building and Room with Primetime
- b. Space Utilization by Building and Room with Seat Fill
- 7. Review Meeting Pattern usage. (Strategy 3)

Note: Campus approved Meeting Patterns are available to view in the Class Scheduling Standards and Policies document located on the <a href="Space Management Compliance">Space Management Compliance</a> webpage.

- a. Meeting Patterns in Use
- b. Meeting Patterns in Use with Subjects
- 8. Identify sections that could potentially be removed from the schedule. (Strategy 4)
  - a. Low Enrollment Sections by Subject
  - b. Low Enrollment Course Analysis

## Astra Schedule Course Analysis and Lecture Room Utilization Report Information & Samples

Reports listed on the following pages for current terms are available to view and download on the Space Management <u>Astra Schedule</u> webpage.

# Percent of Rooms in Use by Day and Time

## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report shows the percent of lecture rooms used for sections during a selected date range. Usage is broken down by time of day and day of the week.

#### **Common Use Scenario:**

This report can be used to assist in identifying primetime and bottlenecks (when certain types of rooms are used at a disproportionate level at certain times). This information can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy emphasizing the spreading of classes throughout the entire scheduling week.



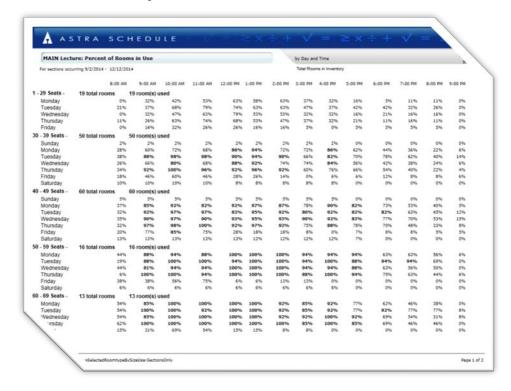
# Percent of Rooms in Use by Room Size

## **Purpose of this Report:**

Similar to the Percent of Rooms in Use by Day and Time report, this report shows the percent of lecture rooms used for sections during a selected date range. The rooms are further grouped by size category. Usage is broken down by time of day, day of the week.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to assist in pinpointing bottlenecks (when certain types of rooms are used at a disproportionate level at certain times) in a particular size of rooms. This information can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy emphasizing the spreading of classes throughout the entire scheduling week.



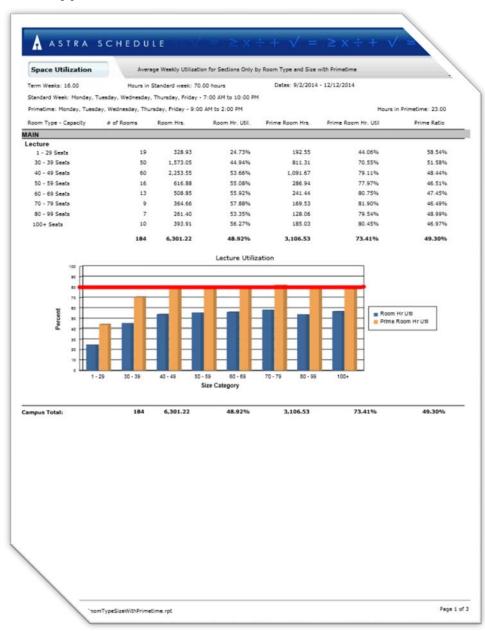
# Space Utilization by Room Type and Size with Primetime

## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report shows average weekly room hours from academic sections by room type (with rooms grouped by seating capacity groups) highlighting overall room hour utilization and utilization during primetime. Space utilization calculations are based on the user specified number of hours in a standard scheduling week. Additional parameters allow a user to specify a "prime time" subset of hours where classes are often compacted (for example, M - R, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.). Hours used by double books and crosslists are counted only once. Enrollments and max enrollments for double books and crosslists are added together.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to compare overall space utilization compared to utilization during primetime, and find room type/size combinations that are a "bottleneck" (utilized 80 percent or higher, potentially limiting future growth potential). It can be used to measure how efficiently different types and sizes of rooms are scheduled in terms of hours per week and how evenly class offerings are spread throughout the entire week as opposed to being compacted during primetime. Note – This report only includes academic section data.



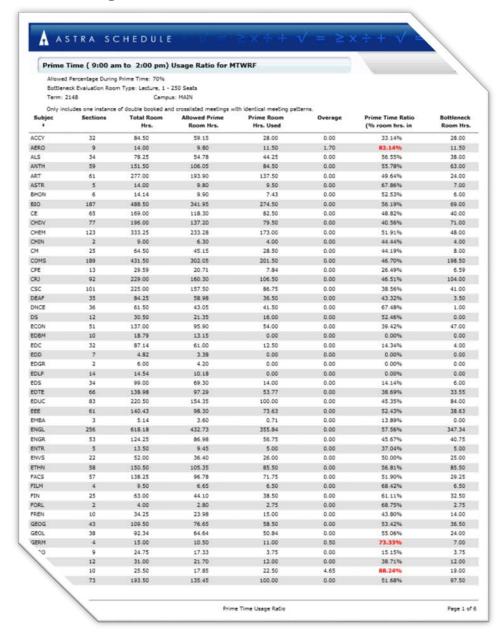
# **Prime Time Usage Ratio**

## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report allows a user to enter specific "prime time" parameters and view average weekly room hours used by subject code. Primetime is defined as a subset of the standard scheduling week that shows disproportionately higher utilization (i.e. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday). This report highlights the total room hours offered of any given subject, how many of those hours are offered during primetime, and how many primetime hours are scheduled into the user defined bottleneck room type and size.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy outlining usage guidelines for what percentage of class offerings are allowed during primetime, and how many hours can be scheduled in highly desired, bottlenecked rooms



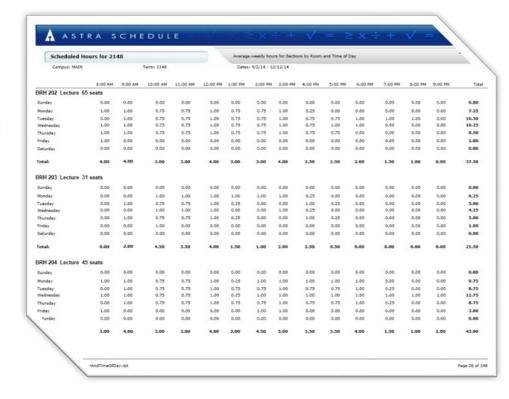
# Scheduled Hours by Room and Time of Day

## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report allows a user to view how each individual room is scheduled throughout an average week during a specified term on a specified campus. This report shows specifically when a room is used for academic classes by time of day/day of week. The total average hours by time and day are included as well. This report can be used to show when specific rooms are in use (and when they are open) throughout the scheduling week.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy emphasizing the spreading of classes throughout the entire scheduling week as well as outlining usage guidelines for minimum room hour usage.



# Space Utilization by Room Type and Size with Seat Fill

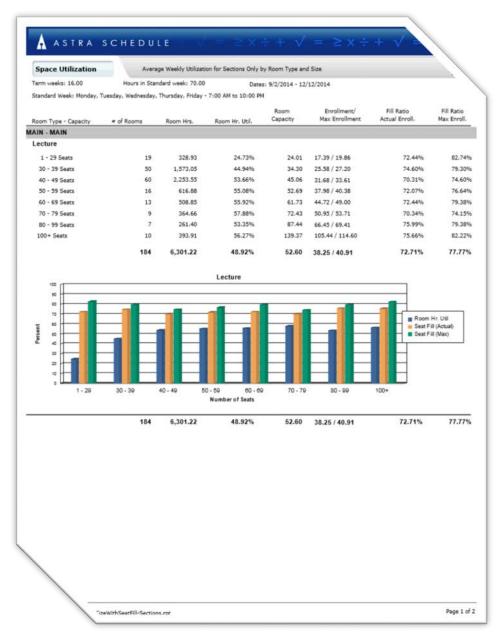
### **Purpose of this Report:**

This report shows average weekly room hours from academic sections by room type (with rooms grouped by seating capacity groups) highlighting room hour utilization and station fill (students in seats). Space utilization calculations are based on the user specified number of hours in a standard scheduling week. Additional fields show a station fill calculation on either max enrollment or actual enrollment of a section. Hours used by double books and crosslists are counted only once. Enrollments and max enrollments for double books and crosslists are added together.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to measure how efficiently different types and sizes of rooms are scheduled both in terms of hours per week, and the seat fill of those rooms when scheduled. It can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy outlining usage guidelines for minimum room hour usage as well as seat fill requirements. Note – This report only includes academic section data.

**Supports Strategy 2** – Reduce unused seats by scheduling classes into appropriately sized rooms.



# **Low Seat Fill Sections by Subject**

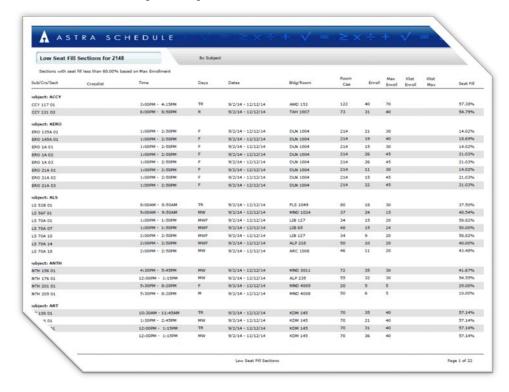
## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report allows a user to view all sections for a selected term that do not meet a minimum seat fill requirement. A user defined parameter allows the seat fill calculation to be based on either the actual enrollment or max enrollment of the section.

Additional parameters allow a user to only include sections of a specific subject that are scheduled into specific room types. Crosslisted classes will use the Crosslist Enrollment and Crosslist Max Enrollment fields to calculate seat fill.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to identify individual sections that do not meet a minimum seat fill metric. If certain room type/size categories are bottlenecked, ensuring that the classes that are using those rooms are filling the seats is important. This report will help identify the sections that aren't filling rooms sufficiently, and could potentially be moved to smaller rooms.



Supports Strategy 2 – Reduce unused seats by scheduling classes into appropriately sized rooms.

# **Space Utilization by Building and Room with Primetime**

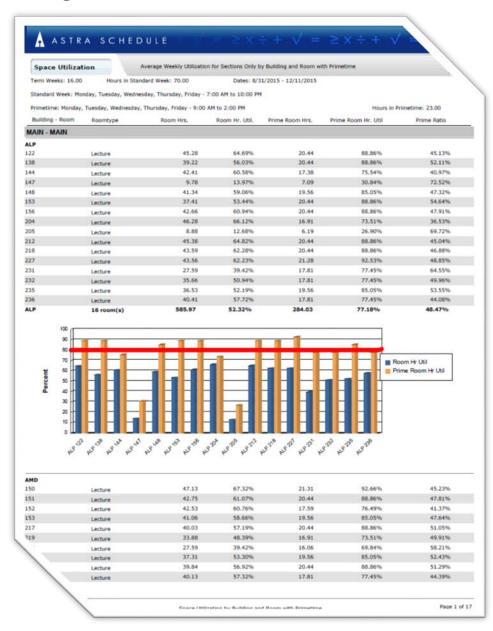
### **Purpose of this Report:**

This report shows average weekly room hours of academic sections by building and room, highlighting room hour utilization during the standard week and primetime. Space utilization calculations are based on the user specified number of hours in a standard scheduling week. Additional parameters allow a user to specify a "prime time" subset of hours where classes are often compacted (for example, M - R, p.m.10:00a to 2:00p). Hours used by double books and crosslists are counted only once. Enrollments and max enrollments for double books and crosslists are added together. The 80% utilization line (bottleneck indicator) is highlighted in red on each graph.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to compare overall space utilization to utilization during primetime for specific rooms. It can be used to measure how efficiently different buildings and rooms are scheduled in terms of hours per week and how evenly class offerings are spread throughout the entire week as opposed to being compacted during primetime. Note – This report only includes academic section data.

**Supports Strategy 1 & 2** - Spread class offering out over the entire scheduling week; reduce unused seats by scheduling classes into appropriately sized rooms.



# Space Utilization by Building and Room with Seat Fill

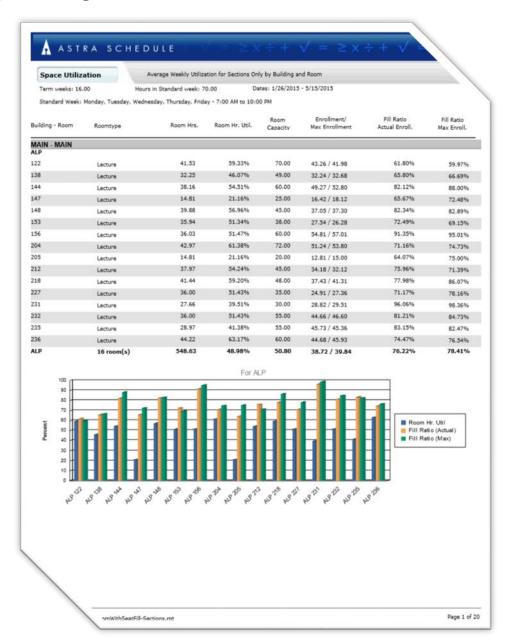
## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report shows average weekly room hours of academic sections by building, highlighting room hour utilization and seat fill (students in seats). Space utilization calculations are based on the user specified number of hours in a standard scheduling week. Additional fields show station fill calculation on both max enrollment and actual enrollment of a section. Hours used by double books and crosslists are counted only once. Enrollments and max enrollments for double books and crosslists are added together.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy outlining usage guidelines for minimum room hour usage as well as seat fill requirements. Note – This report only includes academic section data.

**Supports Strategy 1 & 2** – Spread class offering out over the entire scheduling week; reduce unused seats by scheduling classes into appropriately sized rooms.



# **Meeting Patterns in Use**

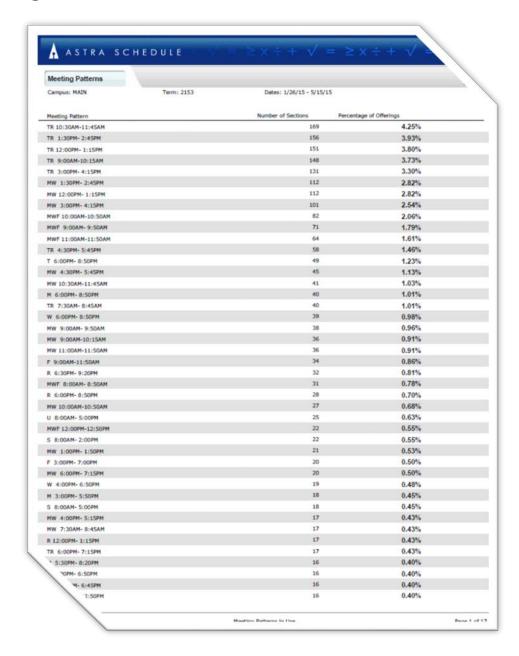
## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report shows meeting patterns in use of scheduled classes for a selected campus and term. The report is sorted in order of most used meeting patterns to the least used.

#### **Common Use Scenario:**

This report can be used to identify sections meeting in approved standard meeting patterns as well as find sections offered in non-standard patterns. It can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy that requires adherence to standard meeting patterns.

**Supports Strategy 3** – Minimize class offerings that use non-standard meeting patterns.



# **Meeting Patterns in Use With Subjects**

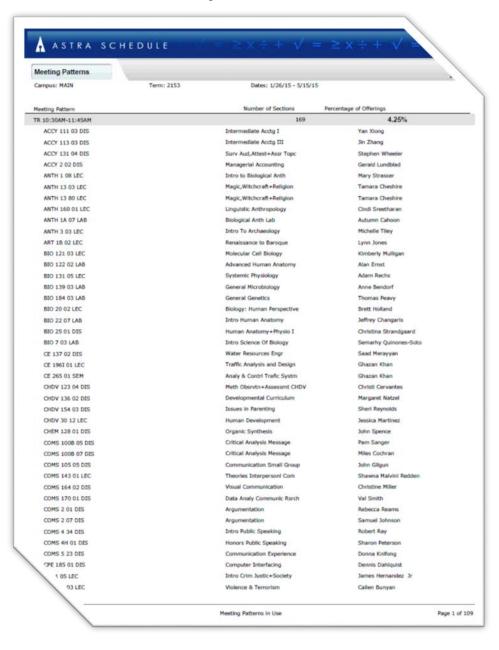
## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report shows meeting patterns in use of scheduled classes for a selected campus and term. The report is sorted in order of most used meeting patterns to the least used.

#### **Common Use Scenario:**

This report can then be used to identify sections meeting in approved standard meeting patterns as well as find sections offered in non-standard patterns. It can be used to help enforce an academic scheduling policy that requires adherence to standard meeting patterns.

**Supports Strategy 3** – Minimize class offerings that use non-standard meeting patterns.



# **Low Enrollment Sections by Subject**

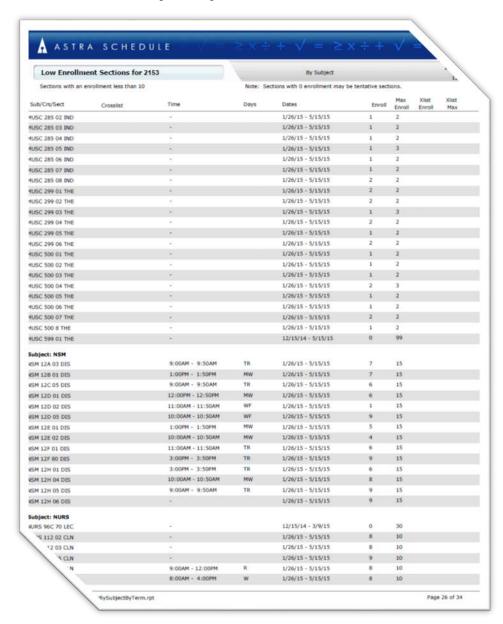
## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report allows a user to view all sections for a selected term that do not meet a minimum enrollment requirement.

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report will provide information to show which sections may not be cost effective to offer due to low enrollment.

**Supports Strategy 4** - Identify sections that could potentially be removed from the schedule.



# **Low Enrollment Course Analysis**

## **Purpose of this Report:**

This report looks at the total and average enrollments and max enrollments for all sections of any given course for a selected term. Those numbers are then analyzed to calculate how many excess seats of that course are offered, how many sections of that course could potentially be eliminated (Reduction Candidates) and whether the entire course could potentially be eliminated (Elimination Candidate).

Reduction Candidates are defined as the number of sections of the course that could potentially be eliminated from the schedule. This is calculated by taking the total excess seats of the course, dividing it by the average max enrollment of sections in the course, and rounding down to a whole number ( Excess Seats / Average Max Enroll). Elimination Candidates are defined as a course that could be considered for elimination from the schedule. The criteria used is any course with a total enrollment less



than 10 and less than 50% enrollment ratio (total enrollment < 10 and ((total enrollment / max enrollment) < .5)).

#### Common Use Scenario:

This report will provide information to show which courses may be offering unnecessary sections. Eliminating sections offered increases efficiency and lowers costs.

Supports Strategy 4 - Identify sections that could potentially be removed from the schedule.