Intent: Prevent issues of acoustical disturbance from external and internal sources.

When noise from internal activity or external sources increases the background noise level in a space, occupants become susceptible to distraction, this reducing productivity and memory retention and increasing stress levels. Floor plan design should provide spaces for focus, collaboration, socialization, and learning.

Impact: While in design, choices made can heavily influence the ability of occupants to focus, learn, and be optimally productive and well.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?
1. The design architect must provide a sound map indicating projected background noise levels attributable to HVAC equipment noise and external noise sources OR a professional narrative indicating the measured background noise level attributable to HVAC equipment noise and external noises.
2. The design architect must provide a sound map indicating projected acoustical performance of typical walls that separate regularly occupied spaces throughout the project OR a professional narrative indicating the measured acoustical privacy between regularly occupied spaces or in open work environments.
3. The design architect must provide a sound map indicating “loud zones”, “quiet zones”, and “mixed zones”.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?
We rely on our design architect to provide this analysis and plans and help communicate to building users what spaces are intended to be “loud zones”, “quiet zones”, and “mixed zones” via space signage.