

# MechSE WELLness

## S02 Maximum Noise Levels

**Intent: Establish background noise level criteria for enclosed spaces to promote best HVAC and façade design techniques for acoustical comfort within.**

A space where the HVAC system noise, road, or adjacent space noise is too loud can be distracting and reduce focus, concentration, memory retention, and cognitive ability. HVAC systems can be ideally designed to meet specific Noise Criteria (NC) and in some cases retrofitted with acoustical treatment. Harmful exterior noise can also be mitigated via improved exterior wall design and use of acoustical treatments. Exterior noise is most effectively treated during design.

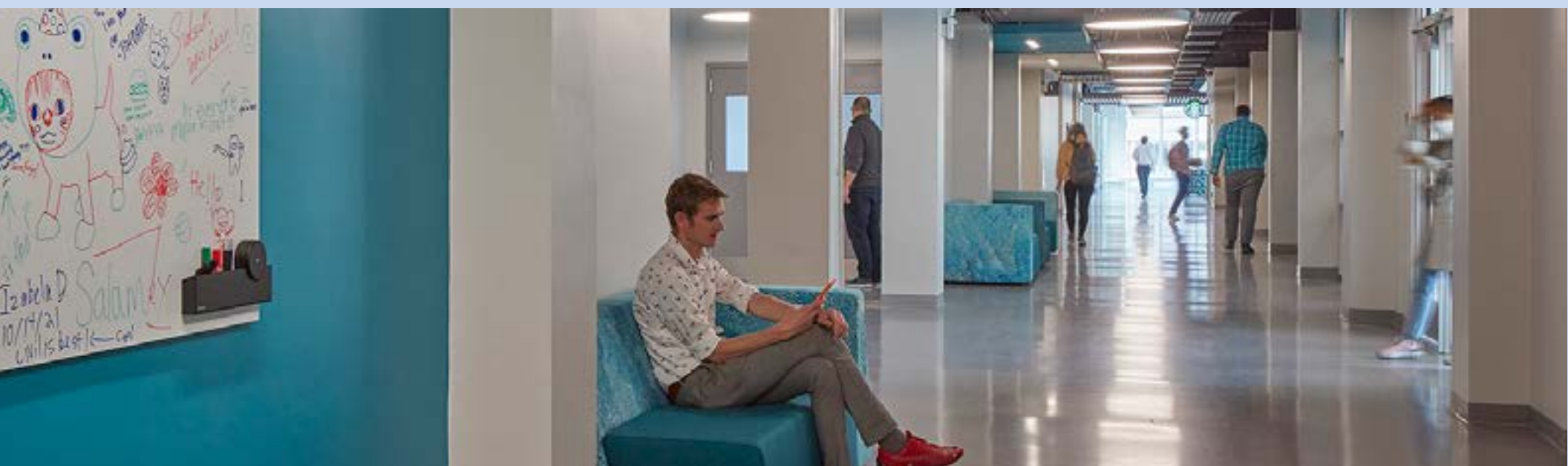
**Impact: When exposure to noise is reduced, occupants are less susceptible to distraction, overall stress, and potential health risk.**

### **What are the requirements to earn this credit?**

1. The design architect ensures that all designers provide equipment and construction methods that meet sound pressure levels indicated in the WELL Standard for individual decibel values in distinct space types ranging from 35 dBA to 85 dBA.

### **How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?**

We rely on our design architect to implement design choices and features that reduce noise within the facility. Afterwards, Facilities maintains condition of any acoustical treatments within the facility such as acoustical panels in classrooms, ceiling tiles, wall seals and integrity, and furniture. Each of us can contribute to our scholarly environment by respecting the intended use of areas as they dynamically shift to meet needs.



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