



Grand Challenges Curriculum

Preparing students for a complex world: teaching LSA students how to tackle today's biggest challenges through interdisciplinary innovation

Our future leaders need the agility to develop and understand perspectives from across disciplinary fields in the arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, and to expand the context in which we confront real-world issues. That kind of life-changing education begins in the college classroom.

In its first major curriculum update since the 1990s, LSA is piloting an alternative approach to studying across the liberal arts and sciences. All LSA graduates have long taken a sampling of courses in the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities as a way to cultivate intellectual breadth that complements the depth of study in their major discipline.

Now, students will have the opportunity to tackle topics through an integrated, interdisciplinary Grand Challenges Curriculum, with courses addressing multifaceted, persistent societal issues—issues that students care about. The update is a new way to prepare students for an increasingly interconnected and changing world.

The suggested course themes for the inaugural Grand Challenges Curriculum reflect the themes of the university's Look to Michigan vision and comprehensive campaign:

- Life-changing education
- Democracy, civic, and global engagement
- Human health and well-being
- Energy, climate action, sustainability, and environmental equity
- Advanced technology
- Additional innovative topics proposed by faculty

Over the first four years, we expect up to 10,000 students each year to build skills and new perspectives through transformational, joint instruction. They will engage with experts with different disciplinary perspectives addressing challenging problems. Philanthropic support will ensure resources support sustainable implementation and growth, helping us enter a new era of collaborative, interdisciplinary teaching in LSA.

Grand Challenges Teaching Academy

The Grand Challenges Teaching Academy provides the pedagogical training and professional development required to design ambitious, high-impact courses that cross disciplinary boundaries. Faculty, staff, and graduate students will continue to engage with the supportive teaching academy community throughout the year. By supporting a team-based approach to course design, the new curriculum will be both academically rigorous and engaging for students. An expendable gift of \$350,000 will support programming, facilitation, and a dedicated consultant to guide a dozen teaching partnerships each year.

Teaching Partnership Funds

The greatest barrier to multidisciplinary education is the "departmental log-jam." Departments are often unable to spare faculty to teach outside their core discipline. With dedicated donor support, departments can hire instructors for core classes, enabling permanent faculty to co-teach a new Grand Challenge course. These funds will allow departments to make two experts (e.g., a historian and a climate scientist) available to co-teach in the classroom every day, modeling collaborative problem-solving for their students. It will take \$13,000 to fund additional teachers for each co-teaching team of a Grand Challenge course. A gift of \$468,000 is needed to meet our goal of 36 teaching partnerships during the first four years.

Mini-Grants for Innovation in Course Development

Developing a course that crosses the boundaries of two or more divisions requires significant time and specialized expertise. Mini-grants allow faculty to attend intensive two-day design retreats and, crucially, to consult with leading experts in other fields to ensure their course content is cutting-edge. The college needs \$5,000 for each course development grant and an additional \$5,000 per course to support materials, research assistants, and course development time. Gifts of \$100,000 will support the launch of 10 new Grand Challenges courses and propel the curriculum toward the initial goal of 36 new courses.

Ways to Fund Your Gift

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.

 **for what's next ▶
Look to Michigan**

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