



HONORS PROGRAM

Where our talented scholars deeply pursue their intellectual interests

For more than sixty years, the LSA Honors Program has helped ambitious students take full advantage of what Michigan has to offer. The 350 students who enroll each year combine a deep exploration of the liberal arts with a comprehensive approach to their major, including research experiences that culminate in a senior thesis or an Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts community project. By participating in Honors, they join an exciting, diverse campus community, which builds friendships and habits of mind that last a lifetime.

Implicit in the word “Honors” are challenge and intellectual stimulus. The Honors Program at the University of Michigan offers a rigorous academic career through special courses, research with faculty, prime housing and commons space, and a vigorous intellectual community. The Honors Program enables students to identify their intellectual interests and to pursue them deeply. Graduates of the Honors Program are particularly prepared to enter the world and meet its challenges, solve its problems, and make a difference.

Gifts to Honors help us to increase the intellectual vitality of the program and to admit and recruit students of the highest caliber. By putting a variety of academic and cultural initiatives into place, we bring faculty and students together for informal intellectual gatherings, research experiences, and leadership opportunities that extend and enrich the Honors community.

HONORS RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS

Honors supports student research activities, helping to pay for research travel, extraordinary expenses, and conference fees. Requests for funding have grown in both number and size and have expanded to include requests for unpaid internships as well as research support. Gifts will enable students to pursue their theses, may inspire a life in research, and will encourage students to engage in the vital hands-on learning necessary in today's world. With requests outstripping our capacity, we are in need of additional support to make research and internships accessible to all Honors students. We also have a special application grant called a "Critical Difference" that allows students to take advantage of suddenly-arising opportunities. An expendable gift of \$50,000 annually will provide the funds to support the research, internship, and Critical Difference needs for all Honors grant applicants.

HONORS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL WORK

The Honors Program offers its students special, paid opportunities to develop leadership and career readiness skills: leading structured study groups and thesis support workshops, contributing to the program's multi-platform communications, helping orient and mentor incoming students to LSA and the program, and teaching first-year students in small seminars developed around senior thesis research topics. Gifts of \$10,000 annually would help ensure the continuation and expansion of these pre-professional activities.

HONORS SUMMER FELLOWS

We successfully completed a \$2.5M endowment for Honors Summer Fellows, which will fund a full cohort of fellows. Additional annual funding of \$25,000 - \$50,000 annually is needed to support administrative costs, including a student intern who will provide organizational leadership throughout the summer. Significant expendable giving or further building of the endowment would ensure that the faculty Honors director can provide intellectual leadership and academic guidance to the program.



"The Honors Program has affected every part of my college experience and was a large part of my decision to attend U of M. From my first day on campus, Honors created a welcoming community that helped me find my best friends. The unique programs of Honors inspired me to engage with opportunities that challenged me and helped me grow. Honors motivated me to consider interdisciplinary perspectives, reflect on my interests and strengths, and develop a well-rounded undergraduate experience. When I considered difficult decisions, Honors was always there to offer advice, make new connections, and find ways to combine opportunities. Honors has shaped the way that I approach my academics and has made me a better scholar, friend, and person."

—Elizabeth Tolrud, LSA Class of '25

HONORS IN ENGAGED LIBERAL ARTS

Unlike like the traditional Honors major, which typically requires the writing and submission of a thesis, Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts (HELA) is a path to graduation for students in any major who wish to combine their academics with civic or leadership experience by developing projects that involve a serious engagement with a significant intellectual, social, political, or practical problem. HELA requires that students integrate curricular learning with co-curricular and engaged modes of learning in which they exercise their own agency to solve problems, enhance civic assets, or otherwise catalyze meaningful change within a community. Annual gifts of \$5,000 - \$25,000 are needed to fund students' project-based initiatives, including research and travel, and to fund the development of robust intellectual, academic, and engaged learning program tailored to the needs of each year's HELA student cohort. An endowed gift of \$500,000 will meet the needs of HELA students in perpetuity.

HONORS SPEAKERS AND ACTIVITIES

To enrich the Honors community and broaden our students' cultural horizons, we sponsor a wide variety of events. Our well-established "Lunch with Honors" series features lunch with faculty and visiting celebrities who give short talks followed by discussion. This series has hosted illustrious guests from all walks of life. We also subsidize group tickets to activities such as concerts, plays, and other events, with group discussions before or afterwards. In addition, support is urgently needed to fund speakers or experts for the Honors core curriculum, which requires holding a symposium every semester for all students in core courses. Gifts of \$10,000 annually would help ensure the continuation of these activities.

NAMING THE HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program has a distinguished history going back more than a half century. It has produced much innovation over the years, not only in the college and university-wide, but also in the nation. As the top-ranked honors program in the nation, LSA Honors sets the pace in honors admissions, course development, and activities. We are a strong factor in recruiting excellent students and top faculty to the college and the university. A \$25M endowment would generate \$1M a year for the program, enough to support current activities and provide funds for significant innovation.

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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