



MICHIGAN RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY SCHOLARS

Introducing first-year students to the interdisciplinary nature of research and the broad experiences that lead to personal growth

The Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars (MRADS) is a first-year undergraduate research program that provides students with hands-on research experience. In our program, first-year undergraduate students complete a faculty-mentored research project and participate in professional development, social events, and mentoring sessions. Students can return in subsequent years and take on leadership roles.

Through MRADS programming, undergraduates enhance their experiences by engaging with the resources that support students' academic, professional, and personal growth. The clear impact is that 92% of our students receive a 3.0 GPA or higher in their first year of undergraduate education. They also build their résumé and skill sets by participating in faculty-mentored research, honing their public speaking skills, and practicing project management.

MRADS is uniquely the only living-learning community nationally for students of all academic disciplines. We address all aspects of "life as a researcher," including developing collaboration skills, promoting sociability/collegiality, encouraging personal well-being, and teaching ethical decision-making. In doing so, we create an intentional learning environment for our students, nurturing them into ethical researchers and engaged citizens.

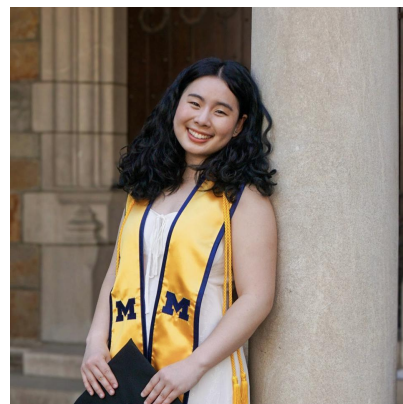
"New to research, I have developed essential academic and personal skills, built lasting connections, and gained the confidence to navigate my future academic and professional endeavors."

—ZOEY, LSA '26

MRADS STRATEGIC FUND

Gifts of all sizes are needed to support the greatest needs of the department. Priorities include funding: student participation at regional and national conferences; the MRADS Research Summer Scholars Opportunity, which supports students' in pursuing summer research; and guest lectures and industry connection events to expose students to key issues in research.

"MRADS gave me an important introduction to professional development skills that my freshman self was wholly unfamiliar with—such as fundamentals in resume and cover letter writing, as well as interview preparation. The program also grew my blooming interest in research, and was the first step in the winding journey that led me to produce a senior honors thesis four years later.



The research programs I participated in at Boston University and Cincinnati Children's Hospital were opportunities I sought out with the skills and confidence gained from MRADS. Coming back to MRADS as a sophomore peer advisor also honed important leadership skills and instilled a deep love for mentorship. I was motivated to explore teaching roles in the U-M Science Learning Center and statistics department because of how much I enjoyed my MRADS student leader experience."

—Katie Zhao, LSA class of 2025

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for what's next ►
Look to Michigan

LSA Advancement // College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
309 Maynard Street, Suite 200 // Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2273
P. 734.615.6333 // F. 734.647.3061 // lsa.umich.edu/mrads