



COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES PROGRAM

Academic and holistic enrichment for the most diverse group of students at U-M

The Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP) is driven by the belief that academic excellence is found in students of all backgrounds and is distributed over the population as a whole. CSP is a vibrant academic and learning community that serves more than 3,000 undergraduate students, with a focus on those who have encountered barriers to educational opportunities. CSP students are identified through the highly selective U-M admissions process and are among the top students in their home communities—such as from high schools that are underrepresented at U-M or have limited college-going resources for their students. Statistically, they come from the smallest towns, the biggest cities, the broadest range of family backgrounds, and sometimes the most challenging high school settings. Alongside their exceptional academic qualifications, they bring to our campus cultural competency, curiosity, diverse perspectives critical for a stimulating academic environment, and a drive to succeed.

The program's origins date back to 1983, when it was formed through the merger of two successful LSA programs—the Opportunity Program, which focused on academic advising in support of the recruitment and retention of Black students, and the Coalition for the Use of Learning Skills, which offered academic support in math and writing to students in LSA who were from backgrounds that were underrepresented in the student body. CSP continues this legacy of supporting students who have historically been marginalized in higher education, while expanding to meet the evolving needs of today's diverse student population through small-size courses, academic and co-curricular programming, and student support services that utilize high-impact, inclusive practices to encourage student agency and engagement.

While retaining a core focus on math and writing, CSP has grown to serve students across a wider, multidisciplinary curriculum, including: biology, chemistry, economics, electrical engineering and computer science, history, history of art, physics, Spanish, and statistics. CSP also boasts highly individualized student services, including holistic academic advising, peer tutoring, embedded mental health counseling, embedded financial aid counseling, and funding and scholarships. In the service of educational and social transformation, CSP fosters a supportive learning community where scholars engage in active learning and leadership in and beyond the university.

SUMMER BRIDGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Summer Bridge Scholars Program (SBSP) is a 7-week residential academic program that supports around 350 talented students each summer as they advance from high school to the University of Michigan. Students engage in highly collaborative, rigorous U-M coursework; near-peer and scholar-teacher models of teaching; social and co-curricular opportunities led by peer mentors; and collaborative individual and group advising led by CSP academic advisors. By all accounts, this holistic model of learning and engagement enables our scholars to enter the fall semester of their first year of college with a clear sense of belonging and confidence, building a track record of success at U-M.

Not only has CSP seen significant increases in student numbers along with significant expansion of its curriculum, it also has expanded its activities from advising, instruction, and tutoring into programming, data management, and liaison work with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Michigan Housing, the Office of Financial Aid, Wolverine Pathways, Michigan Athletics, and a host of LSA departments. As the University of Michigan recognizes the critical importance of support services that are flexible for individual needs, CSP is central to these opportunities for students. We need to secure and provide more resources to grow and strengthen CSP in order to recruit and support all U-M students, especially those who need to apply extra effort in an environment so full of new demands and challenges.



“I loved everything about the Summer Bridge Scholars experience. CSP introduced me to all of my friends, showed me around campus, and gave me a feel for college before our first official semester in the fall. When I hear someone did CSP, I pretty much gravitate towards them. I love CSP for the experience it gave me and the endless community it left me with.”

—Miracle Nwachukwu, LSA '23

NO-COST-TO-STUDENTS SUMMER BRIDGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

In order to eliminate financial barriers for students admitted to the Summer Bridge Scholars Program, scholarships are needed that cover the full cost of attendance, including all tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, and meals. A gift of \$7,800 for an in-state student or \$16,700 for an out-of-state student would provide a full scholarship for one student for the summer program. With approximately 270 in-state students and 80 out-of-state attending each year, \$3M would provide support for all students for a summer.

SUMMER BRIDGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM LOAN REPLACEMENT

Students admitted to SBSP can also be those most likely to need a summer job to help pay for their academic year needs. The goal of the SBSP Loan Replacement is to reduce the financial barriers to participation by these talented and determined students. A gift of any size to the SBSP Loan Replacement fund will provide resources that will be used to reduce or eliminate any federal subsidized loans that remain after federal, institutional, and private funding is applied. A gift of \$150,000 – \$200,000 would replace all loan needs for one summer cohort.

BRIDGE SCHOLARS PLUS

Since 2023, Bridge Scholars have had the opportunity to continue the residential experience they enjoy in their first summer into their first-year fall and winter semesters as part of Bridge Scholars Plus. This living-learning program is designed to increase retention, academic success, and sense of belonging among up to 150 Bridge Scholars. Open to continuing Summer Bridge Scholars, this residential program features current CSP students as residential staff, a membership course, and in-residence community programming. A gift of \$175,000 would support the Bridge Scholars Plus for a cohort of students throughout the academic year following their Summer Bridge experience.

BRIDGE SUMMER CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to offer summer math and writing courses, but also need the resources to develop new courses to address the evolving needs and interests of our Summer Bridge Scholars. A gift of \$185,000 would enable us to put our best faculty in front of students and provide workshops by Bridge advisors, the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, and other resources to insure that their teaching is appropriately tailored to the Bridge population.

Curriculum could be as varied as:

- A course on video production offered by the Department of Film, Television, and Media
- A course on Health Sciences, offered through the Health Science Scholars Living/Learning Community



PEER TUTORING AND MENTORING SUPPORT

Many students remain active in CSP over the course of their entire Michigan career, meaning that the program can find itself serving nearly 3,000 students. Most are enrolled in the same key courses. By creating cohorts of students in the same course each semester, we could hire peer tutors to lead group meetings. A gift of \$5,000 would allow us to establish four groups per semester.

Each semester CSP hires over 50 peer mentors to tutor 300 students in various classes. The opportunity to work together toward success has proven positive for both the tutor and the student. Yet we continue to have more requests for tutoring than we can meet. A gift of \$2,000 would support four tutor-student pairs for a full semester.

GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL TEST PREPARATION

CSP students who are first generation or from limited income backgrounds often aspire to attend graduate or professional schools but are faced with financial and other barriers. To help these students prepare for competitive fields, CSP is seeking funds to support GRE/MCAT/LSAT test preparation courses as well as to cover the cost of the exams. Gifts of all sizes to support test prep for our students nearing graduation will encourage them to pursue their continuing education goals and make the most of their Michigan degrees. A gift of \$75,000 would provide the resources to enable all CSP students who seek this support to receive it.

STUDY ABROAD AND INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP SUPPORT

As the college emphasizes the value of engaged learning opportunities such as study abroad or international internships, many limited-income students feel that they can't consider such experiences because of financial barriers. Gifts would cover the costs for a U.S. passport, travel expenses, program fees, and living expenses for students who qualify. Support at any level for CSP Study Abroad and International Internships will allow students to fully participate in the benefits of a Michigan education, including life-changing global experiences, while \$100,000 would cover funding requests for all CSP students for one year.

CSP STRATEGIC FUND

Each year, expendable funds are a vital means of addressing urgent needs for the program, providing key resources, and increasing our ability to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Gifts of all sizes to the strategic fund are therefore critical to our ongoing development.

CSP DEMOGRAPHICS

54% First-Generation

46% Annual household income of <50k

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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