Department of Psychology

THE POWER

The University of Michigan Department of Psychology is ranked in the top three departments in the nation, and this prestigious ranking is due to the high quality of our students and faculty. Our work in Behavioral Neuroscience was recently ranked #1 by *U.S. News and World Reports* and, with our long history of engaging the best and brightest in our field, we will continue to create the future research directions that characterize the discipline. The strong research environment in Psychology provides a solid foundation for our educational mission at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Psychology encompasses a wide variety of academic and research activities that involve students in hands-on research opportunities to foster critical thinking and intellectual growth.

Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name “Victors.” The $400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That’s why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the frontlines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.
The Department is committed to providing these opportunities by:

• Creating new, fundamental knowledge about psychological process
• Teaching innovative courses and engaging undergraduates in our research and service activities
• Maintaining our record of outstanding graduate training to produce leading scholars
• Conducting technically and theoretically first-rate scholarship at the cutting-edge of science
• Fostering interdisciplinary research as a special part of the Michigan intellectual climate

Students gain strong competence in organizing, interpreting, and communicating effectively—skills that are universally applicable in today’s economy. Graduate students are well prepared for careers in both academic and applied settings, for positions in colleges and universities, governmental agencies, research organizations, clinics, schools, and corporate settings.

THE IMPACT

To strengthen our position as one of the top departments in the nation, we must continue to build on our exceptional offerings. Our outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs, wide variety of courses, and premier faculty illustrate the extraordinary range of our department, and we need to support faculty research in order to continue to retain and recruit the very best. Also we need support to recruit the brightest graduate students and to increase the variety of engaged learning experiences we offer to undergraduate students in order to further develop and enrich the Department’s remarkable programs.

NAMED RESEARCH INNOVATION CENTER IN PSYCHOLOGY

$15M Named Center endowed/ $250,000 expendable

Academic centers are powerful engines that can raise the profile and reputation of a department while uniting and strengthening crucial areas of expertise within and across departments. Centers create a more stimulating atmosphere by engaging other top-ranked schools, colleges and departments on campus while transforming internal research and teaching culture into one of great intellectual vitality. An endowed gift will provide exceptional programming and superb resources dedicated to an area of study within the field of Psychology. This support will fund a particular activity for five years, which will provide the center with the time necessary to find longer-term support, if needed. Such an approach will also provide an opportunity to support several innovations within the field over a period of time. It provides both the stability necessary to develop a strong foundation for sustained excellence in a new scholarly endeavor, as well as the flexibility to pursue cutting-edge ideas within the field.

PROGRAM SUPPORT:

- Undergraduate Research Fund: $25,000 annually each/ $2M endowed
- Annual Conference: $25,000 annually/ $500,000 endowed
- Visiting Speaker Series: $10,000 to $50,000 annually/ $1M endowed
- Faculty Research Stipend: $50,000 annually each/ $3M endowed
- Visiting Professor: $100,000 annually/ $2M endowed

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NAMED CENTER:

- Graduate Student Support: $50,000 annually each/ $4M endowed
- Directorship: $2.5M endowed
RESEARCH INNOVATION FUND

$1M endowed

A Named Research Innovation Fund in Psychology would be a transformational gift, allowing the Department to support one or more significant projects each year. Innovation funds make it possible for the Department to meet emerging needs and capitalize on strategic opportunities for cutting-edge research, scholarship and teaching. Innovation funds can provide grants for faculty research projects, or be used to recruit and support top-notch graduate students and upgrade department facilities to keep pace with technology changes. A Named Innovation Fund can also support conferences, lectures and seminars with visiting scholars. These programs enrich the academic vitality of the Department by exposing students to the world’s leading experts and promoting intellectual exchange at the faculty level. A Named Innovation Fund will provide ongoing support that will have lasting impact on students and faculty alike. Each project will be supported for up to two years with the goal that the funds serve as start-up capital for larger research projects.

PSYCHOLOGY ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP

$200,000 endowed

Michigan’s ability to attract and retain high-achieving students is essential to its continuing success and leadership. Access to the world-class faculty and resources in the Department of Psychology and across the entire U-M campus can be ensured through increased funds for endowed scholarships. Students in the five-year advanced degree in Psychology program face increased financial pressure as they pursue their studies. A Named Endowed Scholarship establishes a legacy scholarship fund that will support a Michigan education for advanced degree program candidates in perpetuity, providing critical resources for research, travel and combined classroom learning and fieldwork.

ENDOWED GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

$50,000 annually/$1M endowed

Graduate students are integral to maintaining the top standing of the Psychology Department. They are the faculty of tomorrow and play a vital role in the completion of innovative research at U-M. They enhance the undergraduate experience by working closely with students in the classroom and in the laboratory. Named Graduate Student Fellowships will foster dissertation work and prepare these students to do cutting-edge research and to become highly effective teachers. Endowed graduate fellowships provide us with an opportunity to enhance our contribution to the field and our reputation as one of the top Psychology Departments in the world by providing more students with greater access to a Michigan education. These graduate students will go on to become the future leaders in the field.

SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

$10,000 to $50,000 expendable

Service-learning offers students an opportunity to apply the theories and concepts they learn in the classroom to real-world situations. It also encourages students to develop a sense of civic mindedness that is an essential element of the citizenry in a well-functioning society. The Psychology Department offers three distinct service-learning opportunities for undergraduate students. Established in 1995, the Detroit Initiative seeks to provide opportunities for students and faculty to engage in further education, service, and research in the Detroit area through a focus on community-identified priorities. The Michigan Mentorship Program offers a unique opportunity for undergraduates to help local “at risk” grade school students by acting as mentors. The purpose of Project Outreach is to have students learn about themselves as they learn about psychology by becoming involved in community settings. Students are engaged in real work in the community that is designed to meet community needs. Many students report that service-learning courses often result in profound life changes. Gifts would enable us to provide more opportunities for our students, as well as develop more partnerships with various community-based constituencies.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.