M-Sci Academy

THE POWER

M-Sci is the LSA component of M-STEM Academies, the University of Michigan program designed in response to the urgent need for scholars and researchers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. Spanning students’ first two years, M-Sci increases academic excellence for a significantly diverse group of undergraduates interested in STEM majors by engaging them in collaborative experiences across racial, gender, cultural, and socioeconomic differences. Highly successful in retaining individuals with widely varying backgrounds, M-Sci addresses the gap between students’ interests in science and math fields and their persistence in these disciplines. Participants show greater confidence in their academic ability, resist discouragement often associated with large science classes, strongly connect to the University, and declare STEM majors at significantly higher rates. The program is strengthening and diversifying the cohort of students who receive their baccalaureate degrees in STEM fields at the University of Michigan and preparing them to enter a global workforce.

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 OPPORTUNITIES

M-Sci is a holistic co-curricular support system for students with high ability and potential in science who are also first-generation college students, underrepresented minorities, or socioeconomically disadvantaged. M-Sci recruits high achieving young scholars who have been educated in less competitive environments that may have lacked the resources to support and motivate students to pursue science in college. These undergraduates participate in a residential summer transition program before their freshman year, community-building activities, research, academic coaching, peer instruction, and introductory math and science course sections tailored to their needs. Rather than first- and second-year science and math courses weeding out the underperforming students, they can serve to catch them up. There is mounting evidence that students can be motivated to persevere in science-related fields by exposure to research early in their undergraduate careers, where they see their science coursework applied in the context of cutting-edge research.

THE IMPACT

Seed funding from the National Science Foundation helped expand the M-Sci program from biological sciences to include all natural sciences and mathematics in LSA. Gifts support student opportunities, including the pre-freshman Summer Bridge Program, academic services, and hands-on research. Financial support enables all admitted students to benefit from the full Michigan experience—the scope, scale, and scholarship of a preeminent liberal arts college within a world-class research university.

FUNDING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

$600,000 annually/$7,500 per student

Scholarships are critical to support students during their summer transition program. Many of these students would not be able to afford the additional costs of attending a summer program, and scholarship funding allows them to spend their pre-freshman summer becoming part of a strong community of scholars and building the foundation for their future success. Preparing for new expectations and requirements, students engage in seminars, workshops, and academic skill development while earning credit in their first university courses in mathematics, science, and writing. Beyond that first summer, students continue to engage in programming that enhances their academic, personal, and professional development throughout their first two years. Scholarship support for students in the Summer Bridge Program includes tuition, room and board, books, and expenses.

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS

$400,000 annually/$5,000 per student

Through a partnership with the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), M-Sci Scholars participate in research internships in faculty laboratories during their freshman year. By their second summer, they are ready to engage in additional career exploration experiences. Summer research allows students to immerse themselves in a project, to benefit from more consistent faculty mentorship without distractions, and to see a picture of the life of the scholar researcher. Scholarships are vital so that none of our students must choose between a summer job to pay bills or offset school expenses and a chance for a life-changing experience. The ability for students to experience intense and sustained academic engagement could lead to a wide range of outcomes, from more students enrolling in STEM majors to global research experiences to clarification of career interests and goals for future graduate work.

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.

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