



LSA TRANSFER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Pathways for access, college success, and transforming futures

Most undergraduate students in LSA enroll directly after completing high school and spend their traditional four years of college at the University of Michigan. However, for various reasons, many students who could thrive at the University of Michigan will not enroll here right out of high school. Transfer students' journeys can include other four year institutions, community or tribal colleges—in-state and from around the country. By broadening the pathways for access to LSA, our community grows in valuable ways while more students benefit from the life-changing education and experiences offered here.

By improving access to transfer from all community colleges in the state of Michigan, along with other four-year institutions both in- and out-of-state, LSA can foster the talent of students who might otherwise feel like the University of Michigan is out of reach. These are students who would enrich our community with their varied life experiences and backgrounds and enhance the impact of our mission in the world. Welcoming transfer students, especially from community colleges, is essential to meeting our mission.

Once transfer students are here, they are very successful; their graduation rates are higher than the rest of the student population. But they face many unique challenges. It is especially true that for low-income, first-generation, minoritized, and rural students, there can be barriers that complicate a transition to Michigan. While higher education is a reliable path to climb ladders of opportunity, including out of poverty, adding financial concerns may make it seem an impossible dream. And research demonstrates that borrowing money to fund an education reduces the return on a college degree and imposes limitations on their financial futures for a lifetime. Scholarship support helps ensure that each transfer student has access to the best of what LSA has to offer while they're here, while building a strong foundation for their futures.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

One way to build a bridge between a community college and LSA is to provide dedicated financial support uniquely available to students following this transfer pathway. This support would enhance the aid U-M already provides for in-state students—like the Go Blue Guarantee that helps to cover tuition costs. When weighing four-year universities, financial aid offers can be the deciding factor for admitted students. Therefore, LSA would like to offer more scholarships, instead of student loans, so admitted students can feel confident continuing their education at Michigan and graduating with less debt.

Community College Transfer Student Scholarships will replace loans for housing, food, transportation, and other educational expenses. Because eliminating student loan debt can change the trajectory of a student's life post graduation, gifts to support these loan replacement scholarships truly do set recipients on a path to successful lives and meaningful contributions to society.

An endowed gift of \$250,000 will cover the average unmet need of \$11,000 per year for an in-state community college transfer student.

LSA FUND FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUPPORT

Expendable gifts of \$5,000 - \$7,000 annually would provide support for one transfer student to attend U-M. We can imagine a future in which transfer scholarship support is available for any community college transfer student so their unmet need is covered, and they can avoid student loan debt or working while enrolled.



“I’m so grateful that I made it here,” said need-based scholarship recipient Catherine Hadley (Political Science, '22). Catherine was a high school dropout who decided to go back to school after the birth of her first child. One class at a local community college snowballed into a love of learning. When it was time to transfer to a four-year college, Catherine chose to apply to LSA so that she could someday pursue a career working directly with elected officials to shape better policy. She hopes her work will help to ensure that kids with a childhood like hers don’t fall through the cracks like she did.

“Philanthropy means that you’re willing to contribute to the foundation of the society that we live in, and one of the reasons why I think U-M stands out is that there are so many graduates or community members that are willing to give back freely. And they know that that investment means that they’re bettering not just the person that you give it to, but their family, the community that we live in, and the world around us. I’m endlessly thankful for these scholarships; without them I could not be in school...It’s so inspirational to me that there are people willing to help a family like mine out.”

ENDOWED FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, LSA has students who would like to come here after a year or two at another four-year institution. They meet many of the same challenges as community college transfers and offer the college many of the same benefits. To improve the enrollment rate among these experienced students, scholarship support that can soften the impact of student loans is critical. An endowed gift of \$250,000 will cover the average unmet need of \$11,000 per year for an in-state transfer student. An endowment of \$600,000 will cover the average unmet need of \$26,000 for out-of-state transfer students.

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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