ECONOMICS

Our students and faculty explore new ideas and conduct innovative research both inside and outside the classroom.

Recognized for decades among the top 15 programs in the country, Michigan Economics is building on its strengths in applied economics and bolstering its expertise in economic theory and econometrics. Our faculty members routinely testify in front of Congressional committees, comment in the international media, and provide economic forecasts to the State of Michigan and the federal government.

Michigan Economics provides undergraduate majors and graduate students with a thorough grounding in state-of-the-art methods of economic analysis. Our undergraduate classes are taught by faculty in settings ranging from large introductory classes led by award-winning lecturers to seminars that stress developing skills in writing, research, and analysis. An undergraduate economics education at U-M provides a solid background because it engages so many important issues and develops a rigorous, analytical way of thinking that employers value greatly.

Our undergraduate majors pursue careers in business, government, teaching, and service, as well as advanced/professional degrees at leading institutions. Our graduate students go on to positions at the best research universities, academic and governmental institutions, as well as to important think tanks and NGOs.

In order to strengthen Michigan Economics and maintain its academic renown, the department must secure resources to leverage the university’s strengths in the social sciences that will enable it to broaden and deepen its expertise in critical areas such as econometric theory and macroeconomic markets. Gifts for student support, faculty research, and cutting-edge technology also serve to strengthen both graduate and undergraduate programs by advancing our commitment to prepare the future leaders for the nation and the world. Many alumni regularly return to campus to discuss their experiences with our students and support our activities through financial contributions.
ECONOMICS STRATEGIC FUND

The Economics Strategic Fund provides the department with a powerful source of discretionary support to address urgent needs and maximize opportunities. In recent years, gifts to the Strategic Fund have allowed us to recruit and retain outstanding faculty, fund graduate students traveling abroad to conduct research, support career and mentoring events hosted by undergraduates in the Michigan Economics Students (MES) organization, and recognize Honors students for exceptional academic achievement in economics. Your gift of any size will have a direct impact on the lives of students and faculty.

GLOBAL SCHOLARLY VISIT FUND

Michigan Economics has built strong collaborations with economics scholars at institutions of higher education abroad. Annual gifts of $90,000 would support this fund would provide resources to support faculty visiting our department for a semester or more to teach and conduct research, as well as support our faculty traveling to institutions abroad for the same purpose. These exchanges of information and research enrich the faculty and contribute to the field at large, as well as provide increased visibility for the department from a global perspective.

FIFTH-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

Michigan recruits some of the brightest and most innovative young scholars and trains them to lead the next generation of academic talent. To compete with our better-funded peers at private institutions, we must offer stipends, teaching assistantships, and health care coverage. This funding is especially crucial for the fifth year of the Ph.D. program, when students are concentrating on completing their dissertations. Annual funding of $50,000 per student will help us attract the best students, which elevates our national ranking and enables productive faculty-student research collaboration.

ECONOMICS EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION FUND

Economics courses, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, rely increasingly on the use of information technology to convey material effectively and interactively monitor that learning is taking place. To continue to provide top-notch classroom experiences, we must invest in creating effective ways to engage students of all backgrounds in the classroom, to connect with them through assignments and opportunities for learning throughout campus and beyond, and to assess the impacts of our curriculum and programmatic offerings on our diverse student population. Annual support of $15,000 is needed to engage the latest technology and resources.
SEMINAR SERIES

Presentations by visiting scholars are vital to the intellectual life of the department. Lectures and seminars expose students to the world’s leading economists and promote intellectual exchange at the faculty level. Individuals who wish to support these offerings with gifts of $15,000 per seminar may specify a particular area of interest, such as industrial organization, econometrics, public finance, international economics, and other topics.

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA INITIATIVE FUND

Economics research, at both the student and faculty levels, relies heavily on the use of information technology and big data to investigate novel and important economic questions. Especially in applied economics fields, many of these research projects require access to information contained in proprietary or restricted data sets or data services. It is not uncommon for access to these types of data to come at a price tag of $15,000, and a growing number of data providers are moving to subscription-based access services that require substantial monthly or annual fees. A gift of $15,000 would maintain secure computing equipment and environments and cover annual subscription fees.

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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