



Comprehensive Studies Program

THE POWER

The Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP) plays an essential role in attracting and retaining a diverse group of students to the University of Michigan. These students show excellent potential, but have not received the most competitive educational opportunities. Admission to CSP is highly selective and based solely on the academic record of each applicant. Students in CSP are motivated to become leaders and best. Many are high school valedictorians and most have demonstrated leadership in their home communities.

The Comprehensive Studies Program was created in 1983 by combining two successful LSA programs—the Opportunity Program, which focused on academic advising in support of the recruitment and retention of African American students, and the Coalition for the Use of Learning Skills, which offered academic support in math and writing to LSA underrepresented minority students. Offering both academic advising and academic support, CSP has traditionally been the “comprehensive,” one-stop-shop for underrepresented students who might need assistance in closing gaps in their preparation. Through the years, CSP has grown to serve students across a wider curriculum. While retaining a core focus on math and writing skills, CSP has expanded to include languages, economics, and the gateway sciences of biology, chemistry, and physics. Since 2007, CSP’s student population has grown and become more diverse to serve more students, including first generation, urban, and rural.

No matter their background, CSP students share one thing: the ways in which they differ from the majority of students at U-M are linked to graduation with lower grade point averages and to lower retention and completion rates. The aim of CSP is to neutralize disadvantages that are beyond the control of these students, who often come from lower performing high schools with fewer (or sometimes no) AP classes and limited resources to help enrich the experiences of their best students.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

The Comprehensive Studies Program runs Summer Bridge, a program that serves approximately 250 students each year who are admitted to the university with the requirement that they begin coursework in the summer session. Bridge students live on campus and earn 6 to 9 credits in math, writing, and a skills-based introductory seminar. In addition to these summer-start students, additional students are admitted each fall with a CSP designation. As of summer 2018, the program has had nearly 3,000 students.

Not only has CSP seen significant increases in student numbers, significant expansion of its curriculum, and challenging changes in the composition of its student audience, it also has expanded its activities from advising and instruction into tutoring, programming, data management, and liaison work with Admissions, Housing, Financial Aid, and a host of LSA departments. As the University of Michigan addresses diversity issues, CSP is critical to the goals of access and equity that are so central to the college and the university as a whole. We need to secure and provide more resources to grow and strengthen CSP and Summer Bridge in order to retain and assist at-risk students.

THE IMPACT

Funding would enable CSP to offer students a wider range of curricular options, including courses that will engage them with all of the opportunities available in a University of Michigan education. Support could also enable us to put our best faculty in front of our most underprepared 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.

First Generation Symposium

\$25,000 annually

Because of the overwhelmingly positive response to 2016's *Are You First?* Symposium, we are seeking funds to support an annual day-long conference, including a keynote speaker. In order to lower barriers encountered by first-generation students, and to bolster U-M initiatives, this platform provides a largescale, coordinated venue to share best practices and resources with students, faculty, and staff across campus. First-generation students have the opportunity to participate in leadership roles in the event and share their expertise, while others learn about the vast resources that are dedicated to supporting them in the classroom and in life on campus. Faculty and staff learn about practices that will inform their own programs to engage and support first-generation students.

Bridge Plus

\$276,000 annually

Upon receiving notification of admission to the university, Bridge students will also receive an invitation to apply to Bridge PLUS, a two-year coaching and success incentives program that will begin with Summer Bridge but activate in the first Fall semester following Bridge. Bridge PLUS is based upon four important findings:

- Consultation with the Jackie Robinson Foundation (which runs a highly successful program) suggests that one key to successful support for Bridge students will be intensive and pro-active coaching and support. Bridge PLUS would provide seminars and an individualized academic coaching program. Recent graduates, as well as junior and senior students, will be trained as coaches and will individualize and tailor a program for each student, based on his or her syllabus, delivering “just-in-time” knowledge and experience of campus resources and practice acquiring the cultural capital necessary for success on campus. Also, where available, students will be able to participate in the ECoach tailored analytics-driven online coaching system.
- Also, our research into retention and persistence at U-M suggest that financial resource issues are critical to many of our students. Benchmarking with other academic support programs suggests that incentive structures can help motivate and reward participation. Successful completion of Fall participation and a GPA of 2.7 or above will result (for students with demonstrated financial need) in an incentive voucher, good for \$500-\$1,000 to be applied to a computer, alternative spring break, spring/summer experience, field course, study abroad, or internship. (A comparable program at the University of Texas offers a \$1,000 incentive to students with need).
- Maintaining cohesiveness among a cohort as students leave Bridge and spread into a range of other courses across the college can help preserve the good foundation that was laid during the summer. We will provide cohort meetings of Bridge PLUS groups each term, as well as Fall and Winter participation in both the Science Learning Center (SLC) tutoring and the SLC study group program—available for the five key science gateway courses.

Bridge 2: Second Summer

\$280,000 annually / \$5,000 per student

For a second summer, CSP students can engage in one of our experiential small-course opportunities, which might range from classes at Camp Davis, the Biological Station, New England Literature Program, Michigan in Washington, Semester in Detroit, UROP Detroit Service Learning classes, or courses taught on the road (such as the Delta Blues road class, for example, which travels from Ann Arbor down the Mississippi to New Orleans). Funding also covers the cost of a passport.

Peer Tutoring and Mentoring Support

\$5,000 to \$10,000 annually

- With so many students using apps, we would like to explore ways to move academic support to an interactive online environment. With an initial investment of \$10,000 in programming costs, we would be able to create a means for tutors to offer support and guidance virtually to students.
- Many students remain active in CSP over the course of their entire Michigan career, meaning that the program can find itself serving as many as 2000 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.

Interim Housing Support

\$50,000 annually

The Summer Bridge Scholars Program and CSP Summer brings 400 underrepresented students to campus for mandatory programming that begins their Michigan career. At the end of the program, they move out of their summer housing, but must wait two weeks before their fall housing is available. With 60% of students in CSP identified as low-income students, many cannot afford to go home for those two weeks or to put their possessions into storage. Gifts would support temporary housing for students who stay in Ann Arbor, or would provide short-term storage of their personal belongings for those who do go home.

Graduate or Professional School Test Preparation

\$75,000 annually

CSP students who are first generation or from lower income backgrounds often aspire to attend graduate or professional schools but are faced with financial 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 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.

Study Abroad and International Internship Support

\$100,000 annually

As the college emphasizes the value of engaged learning opportunities such as study abroad or international internships, many low-income students feel that they can't consider such experiences because of financial barriers. CSP programming would support students who qualify by covering the costs for a U.S. passport, travel expenses, program fees, and living expenses. Gifts 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.

Bridge Summer Curriculum

\$185,000 annually

We will continue to offer summer math courses, but also develop new courses taught by our best faculty targeted at Bridge students. These courses might include:

- A Barger Leadership Institute/Organizational Studies Leadership course, designed to offer CSP students a pathway into the Organizational Studies major
- 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.

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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