



Honors Program

THE POWER

For more than fifty years, the LSA Honors Program has helped ambitious students take full advantage of what Michigan has to offer. In 2012, the program was ranked #1 in the nation for overall excellence among public universities. The 500 students who enroll each year combine a deep exploration of the liberal arts with a comprehensive approach to their major, including research experiences that culminate in a senior thesis. By participating in Honors, they join an exciting, diverse campus community which builds friendships and habits of mind that last a lifetime.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Implicit in the word “Honors” are challenge and intellectual stimulus. The Honors Program at the University of Michigan offers a rigorous academic career through special courses, research with faculty, prime housing and commons space, and a vigorous intellectual community that includes Honors faculty fellows. The Honors Program enables students to identify their intellectual interests and to pursue them deeply. Graduates of the Honors Program are particularly prepared to enter the world and meet its challenges, solve its problems, and make a difference.

THE IMPACT

Gifts to Honors help us to increase the intellectual vitality of the program and to admit and recruit students of the highest caliber. By putting a variety of academic and cultural initiatives into place, we bring faculty and students together for informal intellectual gatherings, research experiences, and leadership opportunities that extend and enrich the Honors community. To that end, we also seek an overall endowment to name the Honors Program so that we can continue to provide our highly-ranked offerings and build on our current success.

Naming the Honors Program

\$25M endowed

The Honors Program has a distinguished history going back more than a half century. It has produced much innovation over the years, not only in the college and university-wide, but also in the nation. As the top-ranked honors program in the nation, LSA Honors sets the pace in honors admissions, course development, and activities. We are a strong factor in recruiting excellent students and top faculty to the college and the university. As we launch the Honors Program into the university's third century, we are poised to offer a naming opportunity. A \$25M endowment would generate \$1M a year for the program, enough to support current activities and provide funds for significant innovation.

Honors Research and Travel for Students

\$50,000 annually

Honors supports student research activities, helping to pay for research travel, extraordinary expenses, and conference fees. Requests for funding have grown in both number and size in the past five years, and have expanded to include requests for unpaid internships as well as research support. Gifts will enable students to pursue their theses, may inspire a life in research, and will encourage students to engage in the vital hands-on learning necessary in today's world. With requests outstripping our capacity, we are in need of additional support to make research and internships accessible to all Honors students. We also have a special application grant called a "Critical Difference" that allow students to take advantage of suddenly-arising opportunities. An expendable gift of \$50,000 annually will provide the funds needed to support the research, internship, and Critical Difference needs for all Honors grant applicants.

Honors Summer Fellows

\$25,000 to \$50,000 annually

We successfully completed a \$2.5M endowment for Honors Summer Fellows two years ago, which will fund a full cohort of fellows. Additional annual funding is needed to support administrative costs, including a student intern who will provide organizational leadership throughout the summer. Significant expendable giving or further building of the endowment would ensure that the faculty Honors director can provide intellectual leadership and academic guidance to the program.

Honors Speakers and Activities

\$10,000 annually

To enrich the Honors community and broaden our students' cultural horizons, we sponsor a wide variety of events. Our well-established "Lunch with Honors" series features lunch with faculty and visiting celebrities who give short talks followed by discussion. This series has hosted illustrious guests from all walks of life. We also subsidize group tickets to activities such as: concerts, plays, and other events, with group discussions before or afterwards. In addition, support is urgently needed to fund speakers or experts for the new Honors core curriculum, which requires holding a symposium every semester for all students in core courses.

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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