



optiMize

THE POWER

The average student in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) spends 12 to 15 hours each week in the classroom, as well as another 15 to 20 hours in additional learning through group projects, reading, homework, problem sets, and research. We believe college is also a time for students to develop their passions, whether that's health, education, social justice, poverty, environmental sustainability, or something else. optiMize encourages students to exercise their full range of knowledge, creativity, and problem-solving ability while working in teams to propose solutions to social challenges. Since 2013, hundreds of student-led projects have been incubated, combining entrepreneurship with goals for social impact to create change.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

optiMize provides undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities to translate their classroom experiences by broadly applying their learning to ideas that they have to make an impact on social issues, both locally and globally. The program is designed to help students face challenges, learn new skills, creatively solve problems, and grow their ideas. Students create teams with others who share their passions or compliment their goals. optiMize offers workshops, mentorship, and funding for students to create self-directed projects that make the world more just and sustainable.

THE IMPACT

So many students are ready to change the world. They have the energy, inspiration, and passion to pursue their ideas. Gifts to optiMize will support year-round activities and fund student participation in a range of engagement that helps them cultivate their projects and make a lasting impact.

SOCIAL INNOVATION STUDENT SUPPORT

optiMize Summer Fellowship

\$5,000 annually/per student, \$125,000 endowed per student

Students come to optiMize with ideas and then work on plans to bring those ideas to the world. After completing the 5-month optiMize Challenge, our incubator program that helps students develop their ideas through mentoring and a series of workshops, student teams pitch their projects and optiMize Fellows are chosen. Supporting an optiMize Summer Fellowship empowers a student to focus on their project all summer without having to work a traditional summer job.

optiMize Project Team Fellowship

\$20,000 annually per team or \$500,000 endowed per team

If selected for funding, each member of a team will receive a summer fellowship. Supporting a project team empowers an entire team of students to focus on their self-directed social impact project all summer. Gifts for team support are the most effective way to help optiMize meet our highest-priority need. An endowed gift of \$500,000 would establish a named award that would be presented annually to a project team.

Transfer Bridges Scholarships

\$6,000 annually per student or \$135,000 endowed per student

In collaboration with partners across the college, Transfer Bridges helps community college students successfully prepare to transfer to Michigan and make the most of their time here. optiMize Transfer Bridges supports those students who are interested in social innovation with dedicated programming that enhances their ability to focus on their goals. This funding enables them to forgo working a part-time job while at U-M and allows them the time they need to develop a self-directed social impact project. An endowed gift of \$135,000 will establish a named award for an individual student each year.

Professional Development Travel Grants

\$5,000 - \$10,000 annually to support 10 to 15 students

Professional development grants enable students to become career ready by providing the resources necessary to travel to conferences, pitch competitions, or meet with a professional coach. For Fellows to maximize the potential of their projects, it becomes more and more important that they move into the professional world well-prepared and with confidence.



LSA

COLLEGE OF LITERATURE,
SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SOCIAL INNOVATION PROGRAM SUPPORT

Social Innovation Workshop Series

\$20,000 annually or \$500,000 endowed

When students have access to experienced leaders, they hear first-hand how to navigate challenges as they build relationships and gain perspective. The Social Innovation Workshop Series brings top change-makers to campus to lead action-based workshops for hundreds of optiMize students. Gifts provide needed funds to host guest speakers and workshop leaders, provide session materials, and create an engaging structure for our students. An endowed gift of \$500,000 can be recognized by naming the annual series of five workshops.

Leadership Development Program

\$10,000 annually or \$250,000 endowed

optiMize programs are organized by a dynamic partnership between a student organization and university staff. The Leadership Development Program is an intensive one-month bootcamp in August for the six students who are preparing to take leadership of the optiMize student organization. Over the course of the month, students develop leadership skills and prepare to organize the Social Innovation Challenge. These students go on to be the primary leaders of the optiMize community, providing leadership for more than 600 participants. An endowed gift of \$250,000 will create an annual named fund for this crucial program.

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.

CONTACT INFO

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